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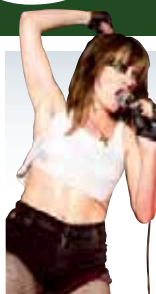
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JUST ASK VANESSA DUNN, LEAD SINGER OF VAG HALEN, ONE OF MANY FEMALE COVER BANDS STEALING THE SHOW **PAGE 35**

Mac & cheese for the soul

About 500 community and business leaders take in a modest meal to fight inner-city poverty **PAGE 8**



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ALBERTA'S NEW BOSS

Deputy premier Dave Hancock was announced as the PC party's interim leader Thursday morning and will be sworn in as premier on Sunday night. Hancock will serve as the premier until the party selects a new leader later this year. Story, page 3. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Signal problems delay NAIT LRT to end of 2014

Setbacks. U-Pass buyers should be compensated, says student association



RYAN TUMILTY
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The president of the NAIT Student Association said the latest delay in the city's new LRT line should come with compensation for students.

The city announced Thursday that the signalling system on the line running from Churchill station to NAIT was causing delays and that a planned June opening would now come in December.

Jonathan Bilodeau, the student association's president, said the line was very important to students, and not to have it open for the school year is immensely disappointing.

"A lot of students were counting on that to be open. They live far away from NAIT and that was what they were depending on," he said.

Bilodeau said NAIT students embraced the U-Pass because they were promised the LRT line and he would like to see the contractor pick up next year's \$7.50 per student increase as compensation.

Brad Smid, the project's manager, said all the construction work is essentially done, but the signalling system has to be in place for the trains to run safely.

"It's very complex. The signal system has to control those junctions, provide safe routing as well as control the intersections along the route," he said.

The NAIT line will overlap with the existing system between Health Sciences and Churchill Station, and Smid said the signalling system will

Contractor liability

"I think finger-pointing is not helpful ... we are trying to get this thing fixed as quickly as possible."

Mayor Don Iveson, acknowledging the contractor can be held liable for city expenses incurred, a route he wants to avoid

help manage that complexity while the city adds service.

"Right now we run trains every five minutes during peak hours and what the new system will allow is to tighten that up to every two and a half minutes," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson said he was deeply disappointed with the news, but the city has to put safety first.

"Our focus right now is that it is safe when it does open and the signalling contractor is able to deliver a safe product."

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'A bit of a shock'

No contenders yet in race to replace Redford

With Premier Alison Redford out the door, experts can only guess who may toss their hat in the ring to be the next Progressive Conservative leader.

According to University of Calgary professor David Stewart, an expert in Alberta politics, the party will need to find someone to win back the favour of Albertans.

"I think the next premier will have to convince Albertans that there is no sense of entitlement within the Conservative party and they can bring change for the province," said Stewart.

The party's rules require a vote on the new leader no sooner than four months and no more than six months after the resignation.

Finance Minister Doug Horner said it was too early to say, but wasn't ruling out another run at the leadership. Horner was one of the top contenders in the race that Redford won in the fall of 2011.

"I've made no decisions about my future at this point," Horner said. "Yesterday was a bit of a shock for a lot of people and we are going to take stock and make some decisions in the future about my future."

Employment Minister Thomas Lukaszuk, while also saying it was still early going, wasn't discounting his own run. He dismissed suggestions from the opposition that the party's leadership race — the third in eight years — will distract from the business of government.

LEAH GERMAIN / METRO WITH FILES
FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Deputy premier Dave Hancock walks down the legislature stairs on Wednesday night with Premier Alison Redford, right before Redford announced her resignation. Hancock will be sworn in Sunday night as the new premier. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dave Hancock to be new premier

Redford resigns. Tory caucus picks Hancock to take reins on interim basis

Dave Hancock, who once dreamed of being the leader of Alberta, got the job Thursday in a way he never imagined.

Hancock, Premier Alison Redford's second in command, was chosen by the governing Progressive Conservative caucus to replace her when she steps down on Sunday and her party begins the search for a permanent replacement.

He lost the PC leadership

race to Ed Stelmach in 2006 and said Thursday he won't run again because the Tories need a fresh face.

"If we're going to show the party as moving forward, I'm probably not the guy who epitomizes that," he said.

The PC party executive is to meet Monday to set out the timeline for the leadership race, which can run as little as four months and as long as six.

Redford did not attend the hour-long morning meeting to choose Hancock, but arrived at the end with her 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, in tow. She did not speak to reporters.

Hancock said he will neither be changing Redford's policies nor the direction

of government. That's the prerogative of the incoming permanent leader, he suggested.

"The mandate doesn't change," said Hancock. "It's the mandate of government. It's the mandate under which our MLAs were elected and that is what we will continue to do."

Redford remains the member of the legislature for Calgary-Elbow.

Hancock said that despite the race, the business of government will carry on and will be effective.

"We've got a budget to pass and we're going to pass that budget," he said. "We are going to go into the legislature

Premier ... for now

- Hancock said he will also keep his portfolio as advanced education minister.
- Hancock, deputy premier and member of the legislature for Edmonton-Whitemud, has been in government for 17 years and is the longest-serving minister in cabinet.

every day and do our job, and we are going to go back into our constituencies every day and do our job," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

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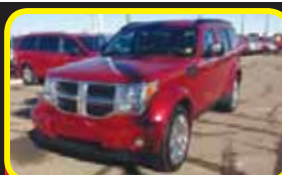
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Cyclists welcome 'one-metre,' 'dooring' rules proposed in Ont.

Traffic law. Legislation gets 'tougher with those who ignore the law': Ontario Transportation Minister Glen Murray



ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Alberta cycling advocates say tough new rules aimed at Ontario motorists who pass cyclists too closely or open car doors in front of them would be a welcome addition to the province's traffic laws.

Legislation introduced in Ontario this week would see fines for drivers who open their door into the path of a cyclist boosted to a range of \$300 to \$1,000, up from the current

Quoted

"We certainly would be encouraged by having the province look at that."

Christopher Chan, Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society (EBC)

range of \$60 to \$500, and raise the demerit points from two to three.

The proposed law would also require drivers to maintain a distance of one metre when passing cyclists, similar to rules in several U.S. jurisdictions.

Dale Calkins of Bike Calgary said both of those areas are "very lacking" in Alberta traffic laws.

"There is a law that says you have to open a door properly but it's not very specific," he said. "And then in terms of passing, that's also something that's

very vague.

There's a requirement that you have to pass safely, but it doesn't specify how or at what distance."

Christopher Chan, executive director of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' (EBC) Society, said he'd welcome "appropriate penalties for opening your door into traffic without making sure it's clear, as well as a one-metre passing law" in Alberta.

"We certainly would be encouraged by having the province look at that," he said.

But EBC's main priority remains separated cycling infrastructure, Chan added. He noted the Alberta capital has still has no separated "cycle tracks," while Calgary has one on 7 Street SW and plans for an eventual downtown network of physically protected cycle routes.



A cyclist navigates traffic in Toronto, where the Ontario government introduced tough new legislation this week that would boost fines for 'dooring' cyclists or passing them too closely. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Amber Tuccaro's mother still looking for answers



The family of slain Amber Tuccaro have filed a formal complaint against members of the Leduc RCMP. METRO FILE

The family of slain Amber Tuccaro have filed a formal complaint against members of the Leduc RCMP after they say many of their answers in the investigation weren't answered.

Vivian Tuccaro, mother of the 20-year-old whose remains were found near Leduc in Sept. 2012, said there was "mismanagement" of her daughter's case by the Leduc RCMP.

"Since the beginning of this missing persons case, we have not had total co-

operation by the Leduc RCMP," says Vivian Tuccaro, in a media release. "All we are seeking, and have been seeking is our right to know certain things with this investigation which is still outstanding."

The letter alleges police did not follow proper protocol after Tuccaro's name was removed off the missing persons list and that her personal belongings, "as potential evidence in a serious crime," were destroyed.

Leduc RCMP referred all

media calls to K Division who were not available before press time.

Tuccaro went missing in 2010, and since then, KARE with the RCMP have been searching for "the voice," from a cell phone conversation Amber had while driving with an unknown man on the night she disappeared.

Her mother says she has been in frequent contact with RCMP investigating her daughter's case who have received a few calls from people spotting billboards

At a glance

- Amber Tuccaro was last seen in Nisku on Aug. 18, 2010.
- On Sept. 1, 2012, her skull was found east of Leduc near Highway 263 and Range Road 241 by horseback riders.

put up in Leduc County, but still "no leads."

STEPHANIE DUBOIS/METRO

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Poverty symposium. Iveson brings groups together

Mayor Don Iveson's aggressive plans to eliminate poverty took a step forward at a symposium on the issue Thursday.

A host of businesses, agencies and community groups came together at the Shaw Conference Centre.

"We had a really good conversation about the nature of the challenge, the complexity of the challenge of eliminating poverty," said Iveson following the meeting.

Iveson said he thinks the key to solving the problem is involving people from a wide array of groups.

Task force

The mayor announced a special task force on the elimination of poverty during his state of the city address.

"A lot of the right players are in the room, so this is the start of a journey," he said.

Jan Fox, with Reach Edmonton, said it was good to have the mayor's focus on the issue.

"It's so amazing to see the mayor's commitment to this."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Charged with possession

Airport arrest

Charges have been laid against a 32-year-old man after RCMP allegedly discovered cocaine in his possession at the Edmonton International Airport. Bruce Eugene Adams has been charged for possession of cocaine, among other charges. **METRO**

That sucks

Two suspected in Dyson heist

RCMP are looking for a male and female suspect in connection to a Dyson vacuum heist. Red Deer RCMP say the pair entered a Target store March 8, took two vacuums and exited the store without paying.

METRO

PC PARTY SHOULD REMEMBER WHO ITS NEW FRIENDS ARE WHEN IT PICKS A NEW LEADER



FOOTNOTES
Omar Mouallem
omouallem@gmail.com

And so we find ourselves here again. The third jettisoned Alberta premier in under a decade.

Have the PCs — have Albertans — realized something new about themselves this time around? As T.S. Eliot wrote in *The Waste Land*, "The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

Alberta is no wasteland, of course, but a fertile place for the middle class, where we not-so-humbly enjoy the nation's lowest unemployment and highest incomes. The prosperity makes Premier Alison Redford's resignation all the more puzzling.

Given the closed doors and cloak-and-dagger handling of this latest scandal, it's hard

for the public to know what, if anything, the PCs have learned this time around. Despite the few outspoken MLAs leaking their opinions to the media or public, we can't be 100 per cent sure why yet another democratically elected leader is leaving us and why, once again, we'll have an undemocratically selected replacement.

And so as members re-entered talks for a new leader Thursday (symbolically on the first day of spring; more symbolically, with a sudden snowstorm surrounding the legislature building), they must remember again who put them in power.

I'm not talking about Albertans as a whole. If that were true then the Wildrose Party would not have given them a run for their legacy.

I'm talking about Albertans in a handful of cities who stayed with them when the rest of the population dumped them. The PCs can't forget that

Redford's resignation

We can't be 100 per cent sure why yet another democratically elected leader is leaving us and why, once again, we'll have an undemocratically selected replacement.

their 43-year dynasty would have been lost had it not been for the centrist and left-leaning people who saw a promising political star in Redford, or had the bejeesus scared out of them by her opponents.

In the past, the PC supporters were spread across the region. The 2011 election showed they were more concentrated. Had residents of Edmonton, Calgary and a few other cities also had a change of heart, we'd be reading very different headlines today.

But instead of honouring their new base, they dragged their feet on those cities' issues. They hemmed and hawed about building LRT. They denied them funds for cultural infrastructure. They slashed budgets for the universities and colleges vital to urban regions.

Redford's so-called "sense of entitlement" was obviously a political issue, as was the \$45,000 South Africa trip. But these would be forgivable if Redford and the PCs hadn't disenfranchised their supporters so greatly and swiftly.

And when the supporters, who were reluctant to begin with, realized what a mistake that was — how naive it was to think a single person could change the PC party politics — they made it known with a 17 per cent approval rating.

So will the party select a leader that gets this? Or will it squander the second chance it was given?

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Good cause to say Mac & Cheese!

Luncheon for ICAF.
Fundraiser uses
humble eats to focus
on inner-city poverty

The fare at the annual Mac & Cheese Luncheon is modest — a simple bowl of cheese-covered noodles — but the goal is ambitious: To raise money for

the Inner City Agencies Foundation (ICAF) and its ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty in Edmonton.

Some 500 community and business leaders took in the symbolically meagre meal Thursday to bring home the point of the needs facing Edmonton's poorest citizens, which total about 100,000, including 30,000 children.

"Those numbers are un-

acceptable to me, and hopefully to all Edmontonians," said Mayor Don Iveson, keynote speaker at the event, who is also kicking off a task force on poverty elimination this week.

"We can substantially reduce homelessness and poverty in Edmonton within a generation, but it won't work without a buy-in from the business community."

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

Lifeline

"When I hit rock bottom and decided I wanted to change my life, for me and my children, these agencies helped me."

Shawn Bernard, whose life of drug addiction and jail has been turned around with the help of ICAF member agency Boyle Street Community Services



Students from Inner City High enjoyed the simple meal as guests of the Edmonton Oilers Foundation at the 19th annual Mac & Cheese Luncheon. LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

Cost of disaster pegged at \$6 billion. Feds offer up initial \$500 million for Alberta flood recovery

The provincial government received an advance payment of \$500 million from the federal government Thursday to aid with recovery efforts in the wake of last June's historic flood.

Ken Hughes, provincial municipal affairs minister, said that, with insurance claims included, the total cost of the springtime disaster will ring in around \$6 billion.

"Sharing these costs with our federal partners helps us to continue our flood recovery efforts, support impacted Albertans and make our prov-

Money to help

The federal government has committed \$2.6 billion under the Disaster Financial Assistance program.

ince a safer place," Hughes said in a statement.

The province has already committed \$1.1 billion to rebuilding efforts in the province after this summer's devastating flooding in High River and Calgary. METRO



The floods that swept through southern Alberta in June displaced hundreds from their homes and damaged both private homes and public infrastructure. METRO FILE

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ECSB taps out capital reserves

Zero dollars. Board chair unfazed, says that money is for spending



LEAH GERMAIN
leah.germain@metronews.ca

Thanks to unexpected water damage in local portables, the Edmonton Catholic School Board's rainy-day fund is completely tapped out, causing some trustees concern for future emergencies.

At a recent board meeting, ECSB trustees approved a motion to build six new pod portables at St. Timothy School — a project costing close to \$800,000 and effectively draining the board's capital reserves.

Trustee Larry Kowalczyk voiced his concerns before passing the motion.

"I think it is really important that a message goes out to the government that we don't have any money," he said. "We are now at \$0 in our Capital Reserves."

Just so you know...

"I think it is really important that a message goes out to the government that we don't have any money."

ECSB trustee Larry Kowalczyk

Board chair Cindy Olsen called the depletion a cash-flow problem, noting the school board is expecting to beef up the account once they sell a current property.

Olsen added that the government has been clear with school boards: reserve funds are there to be spent.

"When you have too much of a surplus or a capital reserve, it's clawed back," she said. "We are better to use our dollars for today's kids, when we need to use them."

As of August 2013, ECSB does have an accumulated operating surplus of \$24 million, which has been allocated to certain projects.



St. Timothy School will be receiving six new modular classrooms after its current portables were ruined by water damage. LEAH GERMAIN/METRO

Distance and crowding. Parents concerned about Catholic school priorities

Capacity

In Walker Lakes, the closest schools are Ellerslie School and Michael Strembitsky — both brimming with students.

As Edmonton's Catholic board of education plots to lobby the province for a new specialized collegiate high school, local parents are concerned that basic services aren't being provided.

While Brian Umrysh's son isn't old enough to attend school, the local father is still nervous about potential bus times and a lack of school space in southeast parts of the city.

"Ideally, we'd like something so we wouldn't have to jump on a bus to go to school," Umrysh told Metro.

At an ECS board meeting Tuesday, trustees announced a new capital plan, including an elementary-junior high school in Walker Lakes.

But taking precedent is a Grade 9 to Grade 12 Collegiate School for Science, Technology and Trades.

Umrysh said the school board is missing the point.

"We haven't addressed

the core offering at this point, and to me, levelling the playing field and giving everyone access to that baseline offering should be the priority," he said.

ECSB chair Cindy Olsen explained that the board prioritized the collegiate school over other projects simply because the board is hoping the government will see some urgency for the project.

"There are possibilities around seeing that school happen because of what is ... perhaps not as easily ready for some of the other schools," she explained.

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Revellers are seen during a drag show held as part of Jasper Pride Weekend in 2012. COURTESY MIKE GERE

Jasper embraces gay tourism with winter Pride fest

Mountain Party.

Rainbow pride has gained a lot of love over time in small ski town

MICHAEL MORRISON
For Metro

In a town known more for its blue-collar citizens and churches than its drag shows, Lynn Wannop recalls the fight to get the Jasper Pride Festival off the ground.

The owner of Coco's Café remembers pounding the pavement in an effort to sell the festival to businesses in the tiny resort town west of Edmonton.

"Even if it's something that you don't personally agree with, look at it this way, you're dealing with a group of people who — if they feel safe travelling here — they will be loyal and come back here again and again and again," Wannop recalled telling them.

That was five years ago.

Nowadays, the advantage of more than 500 people coming to Jasper to celebrate is definitely being felt at Whistler's Inn, one of the town's hotels.

"Over the last five years, we've definitely seen an increase in the number of people checking into our hotel specifically for Pride. That then transfers into things like more restaurant visits and drinks at the hotel's bar," said general manager Vanessa Hat-to-Hugie.

The hotel, which has been a member of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association for three years, is sold out this weekend for the festival.

Jasper's small businesses aren't the only ones benefiting from the burgeoning festival. Through traditional advertisements in gay-friendly publications, as well as their social media channels, Fairmont's Jasper Park Lodge has begun to focus a segment of their marketing exclusively on LGBTQ weddings.

Quoted

"A few years ago, Coco's Cafe had the only rainbow sticker in town and now, you walk around and there's tons of them. It's so cool. It's getting bigger and better and it's not going anywhere."

Lynn Wannop, one of the original organizers of the Jasper Pride Festival

This year, the hotel is also one of the festival's sponsors. Uwe Walter, the hotel's director of sales and marketing, sees the Jasper Park Lodge as having an important role in the industry.

"We've definitely seen increase in same-sex weddings and we haven't run into any resistance, if anything it's the complete opposite," said Walter, who is also the festival's co-chair.

"The support within the community of Jasper has been overwhelmingly positive."

That doggy in the window? It's \$2M

Some dog millionaire.
Tibetan mastiff breed a status symbol for China's super rich

A Chinese dog breeder said Thursday that a property developer paid him 18 million yuan (\$3 million) for Tibetan mastiff twins, highlighting how the breed has become a status symbol for China's rich.

The large, slobbery dog with massive amounts of hair used to be best known for herding sheep in Tibet, but has now become a luxury for the ultra-rich who want to spread their wealth beyond stocks and real estate.

Breeder Zhang Gengyun said he sold the one-year-old twin male dogs to a single buyer at a luxury dog fair Tuesday in wealthy Zhejiang province,



A man working for a dog breeder bids farewell to two Tibetan mastiffs he had been caring for outside a hotel in Tongxiang City in east China's Zhejiang province on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

located on China's east coast.

One of the twins, a golden-haired Tibetan mastiff, was sold for 12 million yuan, and his red-haired brother went

for 6 million yuan.

Zhang said the buyer paid him the 18 million yuan with his credit card. He denied the sale was a ploy by breeders to

hype the price of Tibetan mastiffs and said he was reluctant to sell the twins. "It's a real deal," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Central African Republic. Turmoil at 'terrifying level,' UN official says

The UN's top human rights official warned Thursday that the hatred between Christian and Muslim communities in Central African Republic is "at a terrifying level" and a state of near-anarchy means even those carrying bloody machetes and holding severed body parts in their hands are not arrested.

Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, described the situation as "almost total impunity" with "no justice, no law and order apart from that provided by foreign troops." Some 6,000 African peacekeepers and 2,000 French troops are working to stabilize the country, though they have a limited presence outside the capital of Bangui.

"I cannot help thinking that if the Central African Republic were not a poor country hidden away in the heart of Africa, the terrible events that have taken place — and continue to take place — would have stimulated a far stronger and more dynamic reaction by the outside world," Pillay said at a news



Navi Pillay KEYSTONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

conference in Bangui wrapping up her three-day visit.

"How many more children have to be decapitated, how many more women and girls will be raped, how many more acts of cannibalism must there be, before we really sit up and pay attention?"

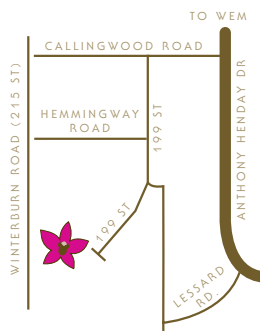
Central African Republic descended into chaos one year ago when an alliance of mostly Muslim rebel groups in the country's north overthrew Francois Bozize, the president of a decade.

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Pistorius to sell mansion to pay lawyers

South Africa. The Paralympic champion needs cash for the longer-than-expected murder trial; he pleaded not guilty

Oscar Pistorius is selling the house where Reeva Steen-

kamp died to raise money for his legal bills, the athlete's lawyer said Thursday.

Pistorius has not returned to the upscale Pretoria villa since the day his girlfriend was shot in a bathroom over a year ago and "cannot contemplate ever returning to live there again," lawyer Brian Webber said.

Pistorius, 27, had

No choice

"Due to the delay in finalizing the trial, the decision to urgently dispose of his single biggest asset has had to be made."

Pistorius family lawyer Brian Webber

planned to keep his home

"sealed" until after his ongoing murder trial, Webber said, but it is now necessary to sell it to fund his defence because the double amputee's trial will last longer than the initial three-week period that was predicted. Pistorius valued the house at \$456,000 at his bail hearing last year. He has not been back there since.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Home of Oscar Pistorius in a gated complex in Pretoria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India

Court convicts five in gang rapes

An Indian court convicted five men Thursday for raping a photojournalist and a call-centre operator last summer inside an abandoned textile mill in the financial hub of Mumbai. The cases renewed calls to wipe out the scourge of sexual violence in India. The rapes happened about a month apart in the same mill. Three men were convicted in both cases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Books vandalized

Japan's PM to express regret

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam this weekend to express regret over the recent vandalism at Tokyo libraries of hundreds of books related to the young Holocaust victim. Abe will visit the museum Sunday, before he attends a nuclear security summit in the Hague. A man has been arrested in the case.

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America's First Lady in China

U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama arrives at Beijing Capital International Airport on Thursday. Mrs. Obama arrived in China with her mother, Marian Robinson, and her daughters, to kick off a six-day tour where she will focus on education and cultural exchange.

ALEXANDER F. YUAN/GETTY IMAGES



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Syria. Assad's troops take over Crusader castle

Syrian troops captured a famed Crusader castle near the border with Lebanon on Thursday, running the two-starred government flag high above the stone ramparts of the 12th century fortress after days of intense clashes with rebel fighters.

Lebanese private broadcaster Al-Mayadeen TV aired footage of Syrian soldiers walking unopposed into the Crac des Chevaliers, the towering hill-top citadel. The loud crackle of celebratory gunfire could be heard as troops explored the sprawling castle, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Heritage site threatened

The Crac des Chevaliers is considered one of the world's best-preserved castles from the era of the Crusades, but the war has been hard on it. Recent web videos show shelling and air strikes against its thick stone ramparts.

This is the latest in a string of battlefield gains for President Bashar Assad's forces. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Turkey

Three dead in roadblock attack

Three gunmen opened fire on security forces at a highway roadblock in central Turkey on Thursday, killing a soldier, a policeman and a truck driver whose vehicle they escaped in, the governor of

the province of Nigde said.

Two of the men were later caught at a clinic seeking medical help for their wounds, said the governor.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan described it as a "terror act." No group was identified and a motive was not provided.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban attacks kill 11, challenge election safety



Afghan police forces arrive at the site of a gun battle in the Serena hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. MASSOUD HOSSAINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul and Jalalabad targeted. Afghan forces kill all the assailants

Four gunmen with pistols stuffed into their socks attacked a luxury hotel frequented by foreigners in Afghanistan's capital Thursday, just hours after militants killed 11 people in an audacious assault on a police station in eastern Afghanistan.

All the assailants were killed in both standoffs, but made their point: Afghan forces face a huge challenge in upcoming

elections, a major test of their abilities as foreign troops wind down their combat mission at the end of this year.

The attacks show the Taliban are following through on their threat to use violence to the disrupt April 5 vote, which will be the first democratic transfer of power since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that ousted the Islamic militant movement. President Hamid Karzai is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault on the Serena hotel and the earlier attack in Jalalabad, an economic hub near the border with Pakistan.

The Taliban have carried out numerous attacks in Jalalabad, Kabul and other areas. The choice of a police station as a target reflected an effort to show they can still penetrate heavily secured areas despite numerous U.S. and Afghan offensives against them in recent years. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Defiant

"Our people, if they decide to attack any place, they can do it."

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesperson, claiming responsibility for Thursday's attacks in Kabul and Jalalabad

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3 Ukrainian warships seized

Navy commander freed.

Rear Adm. Sergei Haiduk, civilians were held for hours after HQ in Sevastopol stormed Wednesday

Pro-Russian forces seized three Ukrainian warships Thursday as the U.S. announced new sanctions against Russia for its annexation of Crimea.

Shots were fired but there were no casualties as the Ukrainian corvette Khmelnytsky was seized in Sevastopol. Another ship, the Luts, was surrounded by pro-Russian forces and Ukrainian servicemen were seen disembarking the Ternopil corvette.

U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday expanded U.S. economic sanctions against Moscow, targeting President Vladimir Putin's chief of staff and 19 other individuals as well as a Russian bank that provides them sup-

port. Obama also said he had signed an executive order that would allow the U.S. to penalize key sectors of the Russian economy.

Within minutes of Obama's speech, Russia retaliated by banning entry to nine U.S. officials and lawmakers.

In an address to the German Parliament in Berlin, Chancellor Angela Merkel said the EU was readying further sanctions and that the G8 forum of leading economies had been suspended indefinitely. Russia holds the presidency of the G8 and Putin was due to host his counterparts at a G8 summit in Sochi in June.

With thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces and pro-Russia militia, the Kyiv government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its outnumbered troops from Crimea back to the mainland. However, many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man in an unmarked uniform, right, looks at Ukrainian crew members of the Ukrainian corvette Khmelnytsky as it was seized in Sevastopol, Crimea, Thursday. Pro-Russian crowds seized three Ukrainian warships Thursday. Shots were fired but there were no casualties. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. general gets fine, but no jail, in sex case

Fort Bragg, N.C.
Sinclair docked pay
and reprimanded;
sexual assault charges
dropped in plea deal



U.S. army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair
JOHNNY HORNE FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. Army general who had a three-year affair with a captain and had two other inappropriate relationships with subordinates was reprimanded and docked \$20,000 in pay Thursday, avoiding jail time in one of the military's most closely watched trials.

Legal experts, a women's

group and members of Congress condemned the sentence as shockingly light.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair was believed to be the highest-ranking U.S. military officer ever court-martialed on sexual assault charges, but earlier this week those charges were dropped when he pleaded guilty to inappropriate relationships.

Sinclair, 51, smiled and hugged his two lawyers in the courtroom.

"The system worked. I've always been proud of my army," he said afterward.

Rear Adm. Jamie Barnett, a lawyer who represented the captain, said she was disappointed with the sentence. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Protesting cost-cutting reforms in Greece

A protester stands in front of riot police securing the private office of Greek Public Administration Reform Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in central Athens, on Thursday. Scores of striking schoolteachers and other civil servants occupied Mitsotakis's office to protest planned public sector layoffs, under cost-cutting reforms demanded by the country's bailout creditors. **THANNASIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Doctor charged for role in Rwandan genocide

French judicial officials have filed preliminary charges related to Rwanda's genocide against a doctor who has lived and practiced in France for years.

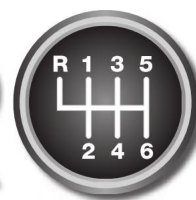
Charles Twagira faces preliminary charges of crimes

against humanity and genocide, and complicity in each, over his alleged role in the wave of killings in Rwanda in 1994 that left at least 500,000 dead — mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

A spokeswoman for the

Paris prosecutor's office said the charges Thursday follow a long investigation into allegations that Twagira had a hand in killings in the Rwandan town of Kibuye. He resides in Normandy and has French nationality. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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B.C.'s pesky porkers put on chopping block

British Columbia.

Feral pigs can now be hunted year-round, without a permit

If they've got any sense, these pigs should fly — or at least find a really good hiding place.

The provincial government has declared open season on feral pigs, animals that have escaped from farms around B.C. and are now eating their way through local vegetation, uprooting crops and competing with native wildlife.

The animals, which can be aggressive and weigh up to 350 kilograms, have been included on a provincial list that allows them to be hunted at any time by anyone possessing a valid hunting licence.

A release from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations says es-



B.C. is taking aim at its feral pig population. ELIZABETH CONLEY/DETROIT NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

caped swine have been reported in the Lower Mainland, Kamloops, Okanagan, Peace and Kootenay regions.

B.C.'s feral pig population is not large but the ministry says,

once established, groups can be hard to root out, they can spread parasites and infectious diseases, and injured animals can be very dangerous.

Along with feral pigs, Euro-

pean wall lizards and non-native turtles have also been listed as Schedule C invasive species, meaning a permit is no longer required before trapping or killing them. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

U.S. immigration. More than 100 people found crammed into Texas house

U.S. immigration authorities on Thursday were interviewing more than 100 people presumed to be in the country illegally after they were discovered crammed into a small house in the city of Houston.

Five men were also in custody, two of whom were arrested after driving from the home on Wednesday. Authorities suspect it was a so-called stash house, a place where smugglers bring the people they've brought into the U.S. illegally and keep them until they or their family members pay a ransom.

After police found handguns and documents in the car suggesting illegal activity, they went inside and found the people captive. Three other men were apprehended trying to flee after police arrived.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Brian Moskowitz told a congressional hearing in Houston Thursday the five were held on offences that included hostage taking, weapons charges and conspiracy to harbour illegal immigrants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game over?

Search of landfill for Atari games put on pause

New Mexico environmental regulators are blocking two companies from digging up

an Alamogordo, N.M., landfill in search of a rumoured cache of what some consider the worst Atari video game of all time.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial game cartridges were rumoured to have been dumped in the landfill in the 1980s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Senate leader orders check on CIA computers

The classified report. It concludes the CIA's use of coercive questioning was torture

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has instructed the Senate's chief law enforcement officer to examine the Intelligence Committee's computers amid an escalating fight between the CIA and lawmakers over access to secret documents about the agency's interrogation tactics during the Bush administration.

In a March 19 letter to CIA Director John Brennan, Reid challenged the agency head's complaints that committee staff improperly accessed the agency's computers to obtain the documents, calling the allegation "patently absurd."

Last week, the head of the

committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, questioned whether the agency broke the law and violated the U.S. Constitution in searching a computer network exclusively established for the committee.

Brennan has dismissed Feinstein's complaints.

The instructions to Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Terrance W. Gainer and the notification to Brennan ratcheted up a clash that pits Senate Democrats, led by Feinstein, against President Barack Obama's head of the spy agency.

Determined to resolve the fight, Reid said he had "instructed the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms to initiate a forensic examination of the computers and computer network assigned for exclusive (committee) use, in order to determine how the 'Panetta review' entered into the (committee) network." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Court refuses to hear Turcotte appeal

The Supreme Court of Canada said Thursday it won't hear an appeal by a former Quebec cardiologist who is facing a new double-murder trial in the slayings of his young children.

Guy Turcotte was hoping the high court would hear his case for overturning a lower court decision in an attempt to avoid a second first-degree murder trial in the killings.

As is standard practice in the case of applications for

leave to appeal, the Supreme Court did not give reasons for its decision to reject Turcotte's bid.

Turcotte will face trial again for the deaths of his children, Olivier, 5, and Anne-Sophie, 3, who were stabbed a combined 46 times before Turcotte tried to take his own life by ingesting windshield washer fluid.

His highly publicized trial heard that Turcotte was dis-

traught over the abrupt end of his marriage and only remembered the night in flashes.

A spokesman for the Crown's office said it was satisfied with the Supreme Court's decision and is ready to proceed with a trial.

"The prosecutor in charge of the file will continue his preparation in view of the new trial," said spokesman Jean-Pascal Boucher.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A court artist sketch shows Guy Turcotte at court on Nov. 14, 2013 in Saint-Jérôme, Que.

MIKE MCLAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Italy rescues 4,000 migrants at sea

In this photo released by the Italian Navy Thursday rescued migrants are about to be boarded on the San Giusto ship, background, along the Mediterranean sea. Italian authorities say they have rescued more than 4,000 would-be migrants at sea over the past four days as the war in Syria and instability in Libya spawn new waves of refugees. **ITALIAN COAST GUARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

No referendum until Quebec is ready, says PQ's Pauline Marois

Debate. Party's leader reassures voters that a PQ win wouldn't spark an immediate vote — but won't say what the future may hold

A Parti Québécois majority government will not hold an independence referendum until Quebecers are ready for one, Leader Pauline Marois told a televised audience Thursday night.

But Marois refused to confirm in a debate with her political rivals that there won't be a referendum if her party is re-elected on April 7.

"You know that (Liberal Leader Philippe) Couillard, in order to have people forget the Liberal years, would have you believe that this election is being fought on the issue of another referendum," she said during the leaders' debate.

"False. There will be no referendum as long as Quebecers are not ready."

Quoted

"The choice is clear: Do you want to elect the Parti Québécois, which will prepare another referendum, or a Liberal government that will attend to the economy, jobs, education and health?"

Quebec Liberal Leader Philippe Couillard

With polls repeatedly suggesting that a majority of Quebecers do not want another referendum, the debate provided Marois with a perfect opportunity to reassure voters that a PQ victory would not spark an immediate vote on the province's future.

But, just like many previous PQ leaders who can't afford to alienate hardline sovereigntists in the party, Marois refused to say there wouldn't be a referendum in the next four years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



From left, Quebec Solidaire Leader Francoise David, Coalition Avenir Quebec Leader Francois Legault, Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois and Liberal Leader Philippe Couillard pose ahead of the leaders' debate Thursday in Montreal. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Portland Hotel Society

Audit uncovers lavish spending by B.C. non-profit

The non-profit that looks after some of Canada's poorest citizens blew thousands of dollars on hotels, limousines — even a trip to a Disney resort. Separate financial reviews examining

expenses by the Portland Hotel Society — which runs Canada's only safe-injection site — revealed misuse of corporate credit cards and unsupported expenses.

A B.C. government review and external financial audit reveal what the province says are significant concerns over the practices of the society that operates numerous programs in Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'No due or fair process'

Trudeau slammed over blocking of Liberal candidate

Justin Trudeau's decision to block a candidate who wanted to run for the Liberals in the Trinity-Spadina byelection has been condemned by the riding's Liberal executive members.

They say the move to block Christine Innes was undemocratic and amounted to the leader breaking his promise of open nomination meetings in all ridings.

"There was absolutely no due or fair process ... and there was absolutely zero local involvement," riding president Julia Metus said in a statement Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

20 years later

All apologies, but nothing's changed in Cobain case

With the 20th anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death approaching, Seattle police re-examined the case files in connection with the Nirvana front man's suicide. Police spokeswoman

Renee Witt said Thursday the review found nothing new, but several rolls of undeveloped film were found.

Police took another look at the case to be ready for next month's anniversary, she said. "There's still a lot of interest in this case. The detective went into the case files to refresh himself. The outcome of the case has not changed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Floating objects 'best lead' in search for plane

Satellite imagery.

Possible debris spotted 2,500 kilometres southwest of Australia

An air search in the southern Indian Ocean for possible objects from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane that has been described as the "best lead" has turned up no clues so far, Australian rescue officials said.

The four planes were checking to see if two large objects spotted in satellite imagery bobbing in the remote ocean were debris from Flight 370 that disappeared March 8 with 239 people on board.

One of the objects was 24 metres in length and the other was 5 metres. There could be other objects in the area, which are a four-hour flight from Australia's southwestern coast, said John Young, manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's emergency response division.

"This is a lead, it's probably the best lead we have right now," Young said. He cautioned that the objects could be sea-borne debris along a shipping route where containers can fall off cargo vessels, although the larger object is longer than a container.

A statement from the authority said the four planes searched an area of 23,000 square kilometres, about 2,500 kilometres southwest of Perth on Thursday without success. The area is about halfway between Australia and islands off the Antarctic. Authorities said in a statement early Friday that efforts were resuming with four military aircraft plan-



Family members of passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines plane arrive for a briefing in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on Thursday. LAI SENG SIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ning to scour more than 35,000 square kilometres of ocean.

It earlier said the search had been hampered by low visibility caused by clouds and rain.

News that possible plane parts had been found marked a new phase in the emotional roller coaster for distraught relatives of the passengers, who have criticized Malaysia harshly for not releasing timely information about the plane. While they still hope their loved ones will somehow be found, they acknowledged that news of the debris could mean the plane plunged into the ocean.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another false lead?

The hunt for the Boeing 777 has had several false leads

- Oil slicks were spotted early along the plane's original route, but they did not contain jet fuel.
- A yellow floating object turned out to be trash.
- Chinese satellite images showed possible debris, but nothing was found.
- Out of a total of 29 aircraft, 18 ships and six ship-borne helicopters deployed in the operation, only four aircraft are now scouring the north.
- Malaysian officials say the search continues on land and in sea, but now efforts are mostly concentrated south of the equator over the vast Indian Ocean.

Thrill seeker. Boy, 16, charged after climbing 1 World Trade Center spire

A 16-year-old boy described as a thrill seeker bypassed an inattentive security guard in the middle of the night and climbed a ladder to the spire of 1 World Trade Center in New York City, where he apparently took pictures, authorities said Thursday.

Justin Casquejo was arrested at 6 a.m. local time Sunday at America's tallest building and was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass, police said. Nobody answered the door Thursday at his Weehawken, New Jersey, home.

According to a criminal complaint, Casquejo was quoted as telling police: "I walked around the construction site and figured out how to access the Freedom Tower rooftop. I found a way up through the scaffolding, climbed onto the 6th floor, and took the elevator up to the 88th floor. I then took the staircase up to 104th (floor). I went to the rooftop and climbed the ladder all the way to the antenna."

He was arrested on-site, and his camera and cellphone were seized after authorities obtained a search warrant, said Joe Pentangelo, a spokesman



1 World Trade Center
ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police department. The Port Authority owns the trade centre site.

According to court papers, Casquejo was released without bail after being arraigned early Monday on one count of third-degree criminal trespass and one count of trespass.

Authorities were still trying to determine the teen's motive. WABC-TV reported that he took pictures from the top of the building, where he stayed for about two hours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saskatchewan. Premier touts Russian booze ban over Ukraine's crisis

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says the province is considering banning Russian booze in government-run liquor stores because of Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Wall says it's a small measure, but sends a strong statement. He cautions that

international trade can be complicated, so he wants to work with Ottawa to find what sanctions are planned.

Ukraine's turmoil hits home for many people in Saskatchewan where about 13 per cent of the population has Ukrainian roots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian class actions. Lawsuits loom for GM over defective ignition switches

Class-action lawsuits against General Motors are beginning to pile up over the automaker's handling of defective ignition switches in 1.6 million small cars worldwide.

About 235,000 of those cars were sold in Canada, and at least two separate law firms are seeking to represent people who are looking for compensation, adding to several other suits in the United States.

Over the past week, Merchant Law Group LLP filed claims against the Detroit-based auto maker in Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan,

saying that GM knowingly misled customers about safety issues by hiding its knowledge of the ignition problems.

Sutts, Strosberg LLP, based in Windsor, Ont., a law firm that also handles many class action cases, also recently posted a message in a local newspaper seeking GM vehicle owners.

In the GM ignition switch recall, the company has acknowledged it learned about the problem at least 11 years ago, yet it failed to recall the cars until last month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bubble trouble: Gum sales have burst

A garbage bin sits full of bubble gum at Yankee Stadium in New York in 2010. U.S. gum sales have tumbled 11 per cent over the past four years. No one in the industry can pinpoint a single factor that's causing the decline — the theories include an unwillingness to shell out \$2 US or more for a pack in the bad economy or that advertising veered too far from underlining gum's cavity-fighting benefits. KATHY KMONICEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A night at the 'Bucks

Whaddya mean I can't have one more Venti wine?

Starbucks plans to turn more of its cafes into a destination for beer and wine in the evenings.

The coffee company says it is looking to expand alcohol sales to "thousands of select stores" over the next several years, although it didn't provide details on an exact timeline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



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Natural gas: \$4.38 US (-\$0.09)
Dow Jones: 16,331.05 (+108.88)

Ont. kick-starts new crowdfunding rules

Crowdsourcing ideas.

Ontario leads way on proposed regulations for businesses raising funds from individuals online

Goes its own way

The British Columbia Securities Commission made it clear Thursday that it has a different approach in mind.

- "The BCSC is not publishing the Ontario

crowdfunding proposal at this time, but will monitor crowdfunding developments across the (Canadian Securities Administrators)," the B.C. agency said.

The Ontario Securities Commission is proposing new rules to allow start-ups and early-stage businesses to raise up to \$1.5 million a year from individuals through registered crowdfunding web portals.

Several other agencies, in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, said Thursday they'll also publish the On-

tario proposals for comment at the same time.

Entrepreneurs use crowdfunding to pitch their ideas directly to large numbers of consumers, who then invest typically small amounts in the startup. There have been concerns that individual investors

could be at risk of fraud if they are victims of unscrupulous schemes.

OSC chief executive Howard Wetston said Ontario's approach would provide new regulatory rules to provide businesses with more access to capital and expand oppor-

tunities for investors.

"We have done so in a balanced and responsible manner that is intended to facilitate capital raising while maintaining an appropriate level of investor protection," Wetston said in a statement.

Ontario's proposed rules would allow businesses to raise up to \$1.5 million during a 12-month period through a crowdfunding portal that has been registered with securities regulators. The OSC proposal would also limit how much an investor can invest — a maximum of \$2,500 in a single investment and \$10,000 per year.

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Notice of Hearing for Temporary Guardianship Order To Sheldon Brown

Take notice that on the 7th day of April, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 - 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order, Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **June 13, 2007 and October 17, 2009**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Diane Charlebois; Jackie Elice; Daniella Eggink
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
Phone: (403) 297-2978

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WHAT HOT LOOKS LIKE IN CANADA

1 The "most hated man in America" dies.

It's not everyday that "84-year-old preacher dies of natural causes" trends big on Twitter. But Fred Phelps was not just any 84-year-old preacher from Kansas. He was often called "the most hated man in America" for his over-the-top, anti-gay protests. Fred and his followers explained the massacre of the little kids at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., as God's wrath for America's acceptance of homosexuality. He would turn up at military burials carrying signs that said "God Hates Fags" and "Thank God for Dead Soldiers." No one knows where Fred is today, but it's probably as hot as ...

2 **Katy Perry.** Just so we keep all this in perspective. There's hot and there's Katy-Perry hot. Since her new video was released on Feb. 20, it has been viewed



THE METRO LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

122,263,013 times. What do you expect from someone who has 51 million Twitter followers? She wiggles her nose and it's a global event. The video in question is an amusing parable of ancient Egypt, featuring Katy in various fanciful Egyptian queen outfits hip-hop dancing. And it wouldn't be a Katy Perry video without a controversy: In this one, a suitor is turned to dust while wearing a pendant that appears to display the word Allah in Arabic. After a petition of 100,000 names was collected demanding YouTube remove the video, Katy's team digitally removed the pendant. What pendant?

3 **Oh, yeah, Vladimir Putin invades Crimea.** Putin, by contrast, has 20,851 followers.

He takes over Crimea on Tuesday and his followers increase by 262. That perspective thing.

4 **Alison Redford rides off into the Alberta sunset.** She's no Katy Perry, but it wasn't so long ago that Alison Red-

ford could be considered the Queen of Alberta, if not the Queen of the Nile. But her fortunes went a---backwards recently as she stubbornly refused to pay back expenses incurred on a trip to Nelson Mandela's funeral. By the time she gave in it was too late. Members of her caucus started resigning and she faced a revolt from as many as two dozen MLAs. Given no choice, she resigned, eclipsing the earlier resignation this week of national Tory Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. That's what "hot" looks like in Canada.

5 **Not hot. At all.** The first day of spring officially began on Thursday at 12:57. You might have missed it if your sun dial was buried under the snow. Thanks to global warming, spring begins about three weeks earlier than it did in the '70s, according to National Geographic. That's good news in places like Winnipeg, which has just survived the third coldest winter in over a century.

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ZOOM

We've got cuteness on hand



RICHARD AUSTIN/REX FEATURES

Tiny loris saved by zoo staff

Keepers at Paignton Zoo in Devon, southwest England are caring for a rare baby that weighed little more than a CD at birth. The pygmy slow loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) — which weighed 22 grams when it was born — was one of two born to a first-time mother. Sadly, one twin did not survive and keepers stepped in to save the other when its mother abandoned it. **METRO**

Weighs as much as a dessert spoon

Seven keepers now take turns to feed the baby both day and night. As slow lorises are nocturnal, the youngster is more active and needs more feeds overnight. Now, at around a month old, it has gone from 22 grams — less than a single AA battery — to over 30 grams — the weight of a dessert spoon. When fully grown the primate will only weigh around 500 grams or less. **METRO**

Quoted

"You have to take care not to squirt the milk into the lungs — you have to let the baby suckle at its own rate. We are just moving on to feeding some solids now — small amounts of mashed, boiled sweet potato."

Lewis Rowden, zookeeper

Where to find them

- **Habitat.** Jungles of south-eastern Asia.
- **Venom.** One of the only poisonous mammals in the world; lorises inject venom through their sharp bite.
- **Status.** Endangered due to habitat loss and hunting for illegal pet trade.

Clickbait



IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

If you're a fashionista, then the one thing you're constantly doing is deciding what to wear. Here are some fashion apps that offer you a virtual style assistant to help organize your closets and plan our outfits.



ISTOCKIMAGES

Walk in My Closet:

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Stylebook:

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90 features to help you organize your styles and wardrobe and also offers wardrobe stats like cost per wear.

Closet:

Dubbed the "Swiss Army Knife of style assistants," Closet app helps you decide what to wear using a style grid. You can track which items and outfits were last worn, and even plan outfits in advance.

Letters

RE: And The Most Famous Canadian Is..., published March 19

I wish to express my dismay at Paul Sullivan's column discussing the problems with the recent MIT research project about the most famous Canadian. In his column, he made repeated reference to "somebody named Chris Benoit" who he has never heard of. For his reference, Chris Benoit is a former professional wrestler who murdered his wife and son before committing suicide.

I hope that in this case, Mr. Sullivan just couldn't be bothered to

do a simple Google search to find out this information. The alternative is that he knew about Benoit and his actions, and still felt it suitable to use his name as a punchline to an otherwise decently-made point about the inaccuracy of the source list.

In either case, I feel that the repeated reference to Chris Benoit in this column was in very poor taste. I very much agree that I would not want to see Benoit listed as a famous Canadian, but not just because there are other Canadians deserving greater recognition.

I welcome Mr. Sullivan to apologize for this oversight.

Chuck Gibbons, Toronto

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Synopsis

The story picks up one second after the last one ended. Kermit, Miss Piggy and the gang are on Hollywood Boulevard after their big comeback, wondering what to do next. A meeting with talent agent Dominic Badguy (Ricky Gervais) seems to provide an answer. Against Kermit's best judgment the Muppets accept Badguy's offer of a European tour to open in "the world capitol of comedy, Berlin, Germany." What they don't know is that Badguy is an associate of Constantine, the planet's most notorious criminal and a dead ringer for Kermit. The evil scheme is to replace Kermit with Constantine, and use the Muppets as a cover for an ingenious plan to steal the Crown Jewels. Steve Gow sits in for Mark Breslin this week.

- Richard: ●●●●●
- Steve: ●●●●●

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Kermit is joined by the usual suspects as he faces dastardly doppelgänger Constantine in *Muppets Most Wanted*. CONTRIBUTED

Muppets in heist gear

Slapstick caper.
The Muppets roots are showing in cameo-packed sequel

Richard: Steve, the new film from Jim Henson's felt and fur creations is being billed as a sequel to the 2011 Jason Segel Muppets film, but it isn't really. It's more a return to the Muppet movies of old, packed to the gills with show biz in jokes, puns, songs and even a Swedish Chef homage to Ingmar Bergman. It's more akin to *The Great Muppet Caper* than the most recent movie. Segel's Muppet movie played heartstrings like Eric Clapton strums the blues; *Muppets Most Wanted* has more of an edge. Well, as much of an edge as a movie starring Kermit and Miss Piggy could have. Did you sense that?

Steve: I don't know if edge is quite the word I'd use to describe it. It's definitely got darker elements but unfortunately, the gimmicky plot of replacing Kermit with an evil doppelgänger felt forced and less natural than Segel's earnest version. Of course, even the filmmakers were aware of that and smartly addressed the impossible expectation of sequels in the opening number. That kind of self-consciousness worked better in the last movie but I certainly thought the songs in *Muppets Most Wanted* surpassed the 2011 film. We even get to hear Ricky Gervais sing!

RC: I'm not sure I agree. The human characters — notably Gervais, Tina Fey as Nadya, a lusty Russian prison guard, and Ty Burrell as an outrageous Interpol agent — are just as broad as

the puppets, which provides some laughs, but the emotional impact is blunted. To place it in an old Hollywood context, it's more the slapstick of Abbott and Costello than the restrained, sweet comedy of Charlie Chaplin. I liked Segel's take on the sweetness of the Muppets, but having said that, this movie made me laugh.

SG: It's true. It is fairly funny all the way through. It's probably slightly unfair to measure this film against its predecessors anyhow — even if it does lack some of the pure warmth of Segel's. And it was fun to see all the talent showing up in clever cameo appearances — especially Ray Liotta and Danny Trejo as prisoners-turned-aspiring showmen. However, even the sheer bulk of celebrities feels slightly distracting. They should just

let the Muppets do the work.

RC: I agree. The Muppets bring a good deal of goodwill with them and the movie shines brighter as a result. It's hard not to giggle at the gags but an exchange between Fozzie and Walter hits a bit too close to an uncomfortable plot truth. "Looks like he's planning some kind of heist bit," Fozzie says of Constantine. "I hope not," replies Walter, "they never work." That's a gag, this one works, but because of the Muppets, not because of the human stars.

SG: In the end, the fans that are going to pay to see *Muppets Most Wanted* will already have a good idea what they're in for. Besides, as that aforementioned opening musical number states, "everyone knows the sequel's not quite as good."

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SXSW roles that got us going

Farewell roundup.

Two guys, a funny gal who turned our heads



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

As we bid this year's SXSW film festival adieu, here's a look at some of the individual performances that really got our attention, hopefully making their way to a theater near you before too long.

John Gallagher Jr. — *The Heart Machine*

John Gallagher Jr. follows up last year's fest-winning *Short Term 12* with *The Heart Machine*, by first-time writer-director Zachary Wigon, about a man (Gallagher) who starts to suspect his long-distance girlfriend isn't as far away as she's led him to believe.

On examining paranoia and suspicion in romantic

relationships:

"Someone once told me if you're playing poker, one of the worst things you can do is go full tilt, which is when you start spiraling out of control. You start second-guessing everything, and it's really an altered state," Gallagher says. "That is certainly something that I've felt in past relationships when I've become suspicious or jealous or convinced that I'm not being told the full story. Logic just goes absolutely out the window immediately. I loved the idea of my character in the film spending the whole movie in that place, because it's a terrible place to operate from, and it's an awful feeling."

Josh Lucas — *The Mend*

The Sweet Home Alabama and *American Psycho* star has always been a tricky one to peg down, and here he goes off the rails completely as Mat, a dilapidated wastrel who commandeers his younger brother's apartment and generally makes a mess in director John



John Gallagher Jr. in *The Heart Machine*. CONTRIBUTED

Magary's feature debut.

On the unique psychology of Mat:

"This is a guy I feel who's justifying giving up. It's a guy who has lost, and he's basically saying, 'I lost because I don't give a f—,'" Lucas says. "And the reality is they went hand

in hand. He started to lose because he didn't give a f—. It's a kind of personality that to be honest with you, more and more in my life, I'm trying to stay away from thinking those thoughts, because they lead to where he goes which is basically homelessness, really. My sense is he's kind of rotting

from within.

Rosa Salazar — *May the Best Man Win*

In the fairly low-brow and male-dominated world of prank comedy that dominates the envelope-pushing *May the Best Man Win*, Rosa Salazar doesn't only hold her own

against her male co-stars, she easily outshines them. It's easy to see why her male counterparts (Whitmer Thomas and Drew Tarver) would engage in an escalating series of dangerous dares to win her affections.

On the freedom of improvisation while pulling pranks:

"There was so much freedom, especially when you're with one of the victims," Salazar says. "When you're with a mark you can say whatever you want because you have to get them to go that way to get the best stuff from them. I was pretty OK with everything. I was hoping we would cross a few lines."

On what she's learned about herself during this process:

"I'm starting to feel like I'm not a human with human emotions," she says. "I mean, I have no shame. I auditioned, and I remember on the way there being like, 'This is going to be so f—ing fun.' The audition was the audition prank, and I was like, 'I get to hit people?'"

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: Certified Fresh: 🍌 Fresh: 🍌 Rotten: 🍌 Audience response: 🍌 Audience anticipation for the film: +

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Action/Sci-fi

Divergent

Director. Neil Burger

Stars. Kate Winslet, Theo James

This is an action-adventure film in a world where people are divided into factions based on human virtues. Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group. When she discovers a conspiracy by a faction leader (Kate Winslet) to destroy all Divergents, Tris must learn to trust in the mysterious Four (Theo James) and together they must find out what makes being Divergent so dangerous before it's too late.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet Audience: No reviews yet

Action

300: Rise of an Empire

Director. Noam Murro

Stars. Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green

Based on Frank Miller's latest graphic novel *Xerxes* and told in the breathtaking visual style of the blockbuster *300*, this new chapter of the epic saga takes the action to a fresh battlefield-on the sea-as Greek general Themistokles (Sullivan Stapleton) attempts to unite all of Greece by leading the charge that will change the course of the war.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 42% Audience: 66%

Drama/Comedy

The Grand Budapest Hotel

Director. Wes Anderson

Stars. Bill Murray, Ralph Fiennes

The Grand Budapest Hotel recounts the adventures of Gustave H, a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars, and Zero Moustafa, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. The story involves the theft and recovery of a priceless Renaissance painting and the battle for an enormous family fortune — all against the back-drop of a suddenly and dramatically changing Continent.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% Audience: 91%

The 2011 reboot of The Muppets gave new life to the singing and dancing animal troupe that enjoyed a first wave of fame in the 1970s and '80s. The success of The Muppets lead to the upcoming sequel, Muppets Most Wanted, in which the gang gets sucked into a jewel-heist caper by a dastardly Kermit the Frog lookalike. Framed for crimes they didn't commit, the Muppets' rap sheets are out, so the public can help track them down

JOY SMALLS
Metro World News

Muppets Most Wanted!

Kermit the Frog

Alias: The Green One, Kermie, La Rana René in Mexico, Caco o Sapo in Brazil



Distinguishing characteristics:

Known to play the banjo and sing, this frog from humble swamp beginnings dates a pig and has a history of leading hordes of animals in the pursuit of becoming rich and famous.

Miss Piggy

Alias: Piggy

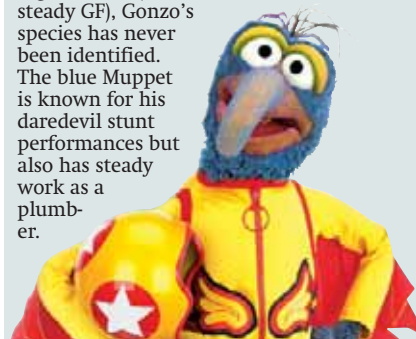
Distinguishing characteristics: In an on-again, off-again relationship with Mr. The Frog, Miss Piggy is known for her dramatic entrances, her "Hi-YAH" karate chops and a temper that is only outmatched by her feminine wiles.



Gonzo

Alias: The Great Gonzo, Gonzo the Great

Distinguishing characteristics: With a crooked nose and predilection for dating chickens (Camilla is his steady GF), Gonzo's species has never been identified. The blue Muppet is known for his daredevil stunt performances but also has steady work as a plumber.

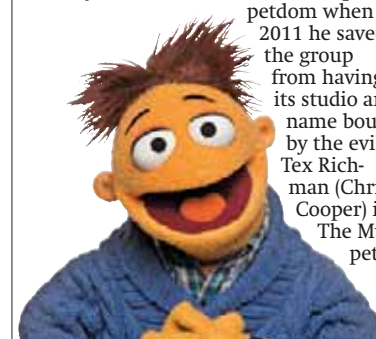


Walter

Alias: No known alias

Distinguishing characteristics: A lifelong fanboy of the Muppets, Walter worked his way into the inner circle of Muppetdom when in

2011 he saved the group from having its studio and name bought by the evil Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) in The Muppets.



Animal

Alias: AH-NI-MAL!!!!!!

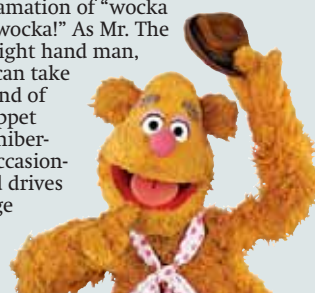
Distinguishing characteristics: Speaking only in verbs and nouns, this drummer for Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem has a monosyllabic power that is channeled into his fierce drum solo freakouts. Under the tutelage of Jack Black in 2011, Animal was treated for anger management issues, but eschewed the therapy in favor of reuniting with the Muppets as a drummer again.



Fozzie

Alias: Fozziwig

Distinguishing characteristics: This bear comedian is unable to tell a bad pun joke without punctuating it with an exclamation of "wocka wocka wocka!" As Mr. The Frog's right hand man, Fozzie can take command of the Muppet horde, hibernates occasionally and drives a vintage Studebaker.



Scooter

Alias: No known alias

Distinguishing characteristics: As a top logistics man for the Muppet operation, the green sport jacket-clad stage manager is the coordinator extraordinaire for most any Muppet caper. Before their reunion in 2011 (The Muppets) Scooter enjoyed a full-time gig at Google.



Pepe the King Prawn

Alias: Pepino Rodrigo Serrano Gonzales, The Crustacean Casanova

Distinguishing characteristics: This six-limbed Spaniard joined the Muppets in 1999 with Muppets from Space. Known as an artist and "crustacean Casanova" to females of most species, the tiny-headed shrimp lets his accent do most of the romancing. He is known to enjoy donning a pink tutu, particularly for the film Prawn Lake.



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Leguizamo brings Ghetto Klown to HBO

Last autobiographical performance. The candid method actor and comedian has taken the traumatic moments from his life and made them funny in order to move on

MEREDITH
ENGEL
Metro World News

Those who couldn't catch John Leguizamo's one-man career retrospective, *Ghetto Klown*, when it was on Broadway and on tour now have another chance to see the rowdy, emotional performance: It's coming to HBO Canada Saturday night.

After four stand-up specials for HBO, Leguizamo is comfortable baring all on stage (emotionally, that is). "You do develop a callus," he says.

But Leguizamo wouldn't be able to be so vulnerable if he weren't in tune with himself — a practice that he credits his therapist in helping him with.

"You can't have a show like this and not go to therapy," says the actor and comedian, who is very open about the fact that he sees a therapist.

"You have to be very self-aware and you have to want to be self-aware to be able to write a show about yourself, and a good show."

Leguizamo says that there was no way he could present an honest account of his life without

When to watch

• *Ghetto Klown* airs Saturday at 10 p.m. on HBO Canada.

touching upon negative experiences ("The audience knows when you're fast-forwarding," he says). He believes that turning his tough times — like his tough relationship with his dad and his divorce — into art help him reframe the narrative and move on from them.

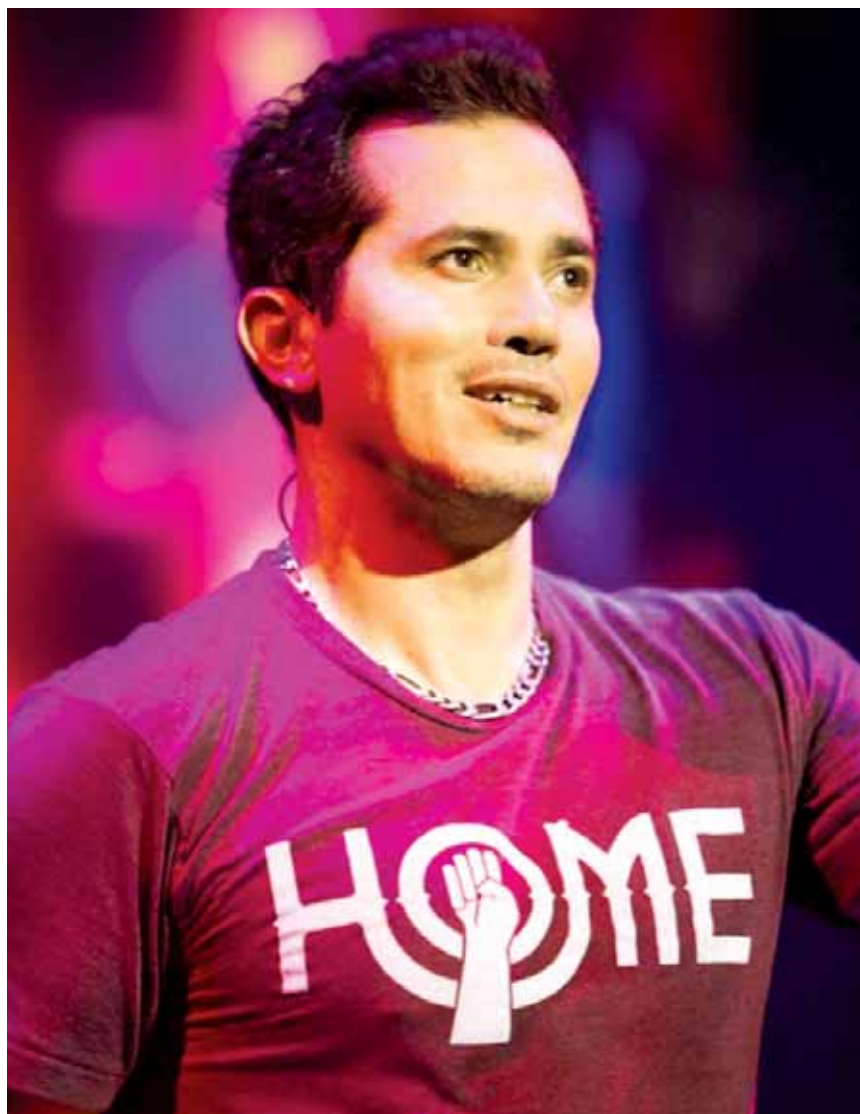
"A lot of artists use art to take control of it," he says. "You recreate it lots of times until you can let it go."

"I'm taking all my traumatic moments, making them funnier than they actually were, but reworking them and having control over them this time, as opposed to them controlling me."

"When you're making the art you're the god, and then you can see all the sides of it and it gives you distance. Then it's not so toxic."

The show took eight years to develop, and Leguizamo worked to ensure it ran "like a clock."

"I'm one person and I'm doing a lot of emotional things," he says. "I have to have certain things be right on time and right on schedule so that I can just be a springboard and fly, not thinking about anything." Being a method actor helps, he adds, because "it teaches



John Leguizamo bares all in *Ghetto Klown*, but says that the performance is therapeutic. CRAIG BLANKHORN/HBO

Rated R

Not for the kids. Leguizamo's wife, Justine, has seen *Ghetto Klown*, but his two teenagers haven't — and won't until they've graduated college, he says. "They know it's inappropriate and they're not allowed," he says. "It's a lot of personal things that I'm not ready to share with them." By the time they're 21 though, "they'll have life experience," he says. "They'll understand a little bit."

• Wild and crazy.

Sometimes Leguizamo's Broadway audience took the show's party atmosphere to the next level. "I love the reactions from the audience and I think that's part of what feeds the show, but yeah, in the end it's still a theater piece," he says. "You know, Broadway for some reason, the owners felt like my show could tolerate people bringing the drinks to their chairs, in super-size cups, so there was a lot of inappropriate behaviour going on in my theatre." And we're talking more than phones going off. "I almost crashed head to head with this guy because he ran onstage as I was going offstage," he says.

Quoted

"You can't have a show like this and not go to therapy."

John Leguizamo, actor/comedian

you how to be crazy in front of a lot of

people."

Leguizamo says *Ghetto Klown* is his "magnum opus" and that it's his last autobiographical performance. Up next, he'll be doing a political or historical performance of vignettes, in a tribute to his hero, Jonathan Winters.

"This is my masterpiece. This is it. I'm not spending eight years on anything anymore — I can't do that. That was an incredible marathon, and it was worth the run, but now I need to do something totally different."

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Music purist Young's Pono system hit some bum notes during SXSW pitch

Costly. Canadian rocker's quest to bring 'vinyl-quality sound' to the MP3 masses hit a few snags, and may face uphill battle to succeed

Say what you will about Neil Young: he's blunt, he's mercurial, he doesn't "realize that there are other people involved in this world," as Graham Nash puts it in his recent autobiography.

But there's one adjective you couldn't imagine applying to him, at least not until he made his session at SXSW for his portable, high-fidelity music system, Pono: pitchman. As Torstar News Service observed from Austin, Young is on a quest to "bring vinyl-quality sound to a generation of music consumers accustomed to listening to thin MP3 files through laptop speakers and earbuds 'that look like lozenges.'"

For music lovers — especially music lovers of a certain age — it's a tantalizing promise: a chance to hear music like it used to sound, before those kids with their MP3s and iPhones and their insistence that music consumption be, above all else, convenient got their hands on it.

But watching the livestream of Young's ex-

SXSW pitch

- In a roundabout way, Neil Young conceded to an audience at this year's SXSW that the Pono and its accompanying iTunes-esque delivery service might be strictly for the serious audiophile.
- But he touched a definite nerve with the crowd when he lamented that the rise of the MP3 and the one-off digital single had done irreparable damage to rock 'n' roll's veneration of the album as a sacred form.
- With Pono, he promised,

"you get to feel not just what the artist intended you to feel" and — if the original recordings warrant it — it'll make your car or your headphones "sound like God."

- Young also managed to rally a list of rock royals that included Bruce Springsteen, Jack White, Dave Grohl, Arcade Fire, Duane Eddy and many others to provide a web video testimony of the system's power in a reel that ran midway through his SXSW session.

tended infomercial, we began to get a sinking feeling, and here's why.

1. The product is aimed at out-of-home listening.

If we want vinyl-quality sound in our living room, we'll just play records. A decent turntable is relatively inexpensive, and — if you live in a city that's blessed with an abundance of used-record shops — you can still (as we did recently) stumble upon an original copy of Young's *Harvest*, complete with lyric sheet and grainy cover, for eight bucks. No portable format can beat that. And we don't know about you, but our car isn't equipped with the kind of speakers that can dis-

tinguish between 44.1 kHz/16 bit CD quality and 192/24 ultra-high resolution, especially when we're sitting amid the roar of rush hour traffic.

2. The players aren't cheap.

Once they hit stores, provisionally this fall, they'll sell for \$399, and that doesn't include a pair of headphones decent enough to take advantage of the high-fidelity sound.

3. The music won't be cheap. Albums will be \$14.99 to \$24.99, according to the FAQ at pono-music.com. The price for single songs hasn't been set. Neither, apparently, has the cut Pono will take on music sales. Apple, for instance, gets 30 per cent

off the top. At SXSW, that question was met with a response from CEO John Hamm (no, not that one) that was so evasive, even Young conceded he didn't provide an answer. And, as a couple of audience members at SXSW noted, a lot of us already own some music on record, cassette, CD



us wishes that Young's system was aimed more at communal listening.

The pitch video focused on listening to Pono in your car, and Young also mentioned headphones, but both of those scenarios feel like an extension of Shuhei Hosokawa's famous The Walkman Effect. In other words, they encourage "self-enclosure."

If you really long to go back to the way music used to be consumed, you might empathize with Jacques Attali's words in *Noise: The Political Economy of Music*. He calls music "a tool for the creation or consolidation of a community...." Pono doesn't really seem like it's built for that.

Mind you, fans who have bought every piece of music Young has released have learned that his intentions aren't always plain on first listen. If Pono proves popular enough — and the fact that its Kickstarter campaign raised \$2 million in one day is a promising sign — it could spark Apple into making its players, phones and tablets FLAC-compatible. That would be a win for everybody. And that we do get.

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All-female tribute bands steal the show

Cover girls. Rock 'n' roll rebels give macho material a much-needed makeover

Clutching the microphone in her leather-gloved hand, Vanessa Dunn strutted onstage with wild abandon, crouching toward the swaying crowd as she wailed about giving "every inch" of her love.

A beat later, the frontwoman for Toronto's Vag Halen whipped off her tank top to belt out the rest of Led Zeppelin's Whole Lotta Love bare-chested.

Inside the Art Gallery of Ontario, where the show was held last June, the crowd roared its approval.

For Dunn, the gesture felt "incredibly natural," she said in a recent interview — nothing more than what male rock stars have done for decades without anyone batting an eye.

But even a casual move can sometimes send a powerful message, the singer discovered after receiving a letter from a fan.

"This woman was telling me there was just this energy that

happened in the room that was like ... 'We could do that, too. Someone just did what all of us want to do,'" she said.

"That's what I've heard more, that when they see me up there and all of us up there doing what we do onstage, it's more like, 'Oh, it's for the taking, I can do that.'"

A rising star on the burgeoning scene of all-female cover and tribute bands — the group played at the Venice Biennale last May — Vag Halen makes no bones about reclaiming rock and roll's traditionally male, heterosexual voice.

It's a way of making peace with beloved but often problematic hits from rock heavyweights such as Led Zeppelin, Guns N' Roses and the band's namesake Van Halen, Dunn said, while creating more space for women in an industry where they still face significant barriers.

The movement has drawn high-profile praise, including from pop culture writer Chuck Klosterman, who once wrote that the American group Lez Zeppelin might be "the most powerful all-female band in rock history."

And Sheezer, a Toronto mainstay in recent years, got Weezer's stamp of approval when lead singer Rivers Cuomo mentioned the band in a tweet.

Yet some in the scene are less eager to draw attention to the politics surrounding their act, though they acknowledge it's impossible to skirt the issue entirely.

"All-female bands are not as common as all-male bands," and inevitably stand out as a result, said Carly Beath, lead singer of the Toronto-based Nirvana

tribute band Hervana, which had its first show this month.

The group came together last year, its members all accomplished musicians in their 30s who "just happen to be women" and don't want to be defined by their gender, Beath said.

Many all-female tribute bands deliberately choose groups with misogynist lyrics,

but Hervana's source material already has a feminist slant, so it's more a matter of celebrating rather than reclaiming it, she said.

"Nirvana songs are the songs I first learned to play when I was learning guitar, so we thought it would be fun to go back to the songs we started with," she said.

The same goes for Sheezer,

whose main goal is to have fun playing music they love, the band's agent Jen Rogers said.

Dunn argues women-only tribute bands can't help but be subversive, whether they intend it or not.

"If you're going to do covers and choose an all-male catalogue ... that's inherently feminist," she said.

That the message comes in a fun, energetic performance helps explain the appeal, said Ken McLeod, an assistant professor of history and culture at the University of Toronto.

"It's managing not to take itself too seriously" while delivering a mix of critique and homage, he said. "It's fun and political at the same time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"That's what I've heard more, that when they see me up there and all of us up there doing what we do onstage, it's more like, 'Oh, it's for the taking, I can do that.'"

Vanessa Dunn, frontwoman, Vag Halen
on women's reactions to her band



Vag Halen lead singer Vanessa Dunn performs in Toronto. ALEJANDRO SANTIAGO

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Canuck sitcoms aren't faring so well — and here are a few theories as to why

Funny business.

Is this just what happens with all comedy shows? Or is there something particularly Canadian going on over here?

Comedy is a strange business. Especially in television, where successfully launching a new sitcom is about as rare as holding a victory parade for a Toronto sports team.

For every Seinfeld, Friends or Modern Family, there are dozens of We Are Men, Back in the Game or Welcome to the Family — three bombs from last fall.

Still, the phenomenal success of The Big Bang Theory — the top-rated series in Canada for several years — has sparked a revival of the sitcom format.

Fifteen network sitcoms were launched last fall and several more, including About a Boy, Surviving Jack and Mixology, in mid-season. Out of a total of 20 U.S. network sitcoms, maybe four will be back next year.

That's a one-in-five survival rate — the standard since the '50s.

Despite the long odds, Canadian networks are suddenly doubling down on comedy. Joining City's Seed and Package Deal in recent weeks has been CTV's Spun Out and Global's Working the Engels.

CBC, home of Mr. D, has also ordered Schitt's Creek, a sitcom starring SCTV veterans Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara.

Two are traditional four-camera, studio audience sitcoms. Yet none of the new comedies has broken through as a stand-alone hit in Canada.

Spun Out, starring Kids in the Hall alumni Dave Foley, was given a big Oscar boost and a full billboard push from CTV, which also tucked the first episode behind mighty Big Bang.

Yet when the first three episodes went from 1.2 million viewers to less than half that in three outings (according to overnight estimates), CTV pulled Spun Out from Fridays and put it back in the Thursday Big Bang slot.

Why does it appear to take so long for Canadian comedies to find an audience in Canada? Funny you should ask. Here are a few theories:

1. Most American TV comedies fail. See above.

2. Even ultimately successful comedies often take longer to connect.

The most famous example is Cheers, now seen as an all-time classic.

"One weekend over Thanksgiving the first year we were the 75th (ranked) show on the air and there were 75 shows," remembers Jim Burrows, now directing The Millers.

He feels "it takes time to get the word out, for people to tell other people." Cheers eventually went to No. 1 and ran for nine seasons. All in the Family was originally cancelled by CBS after a slow January start. The network saw ratings climb that summer in reruns and decided to give Archie Bunker one more chance. It became TV's No. 1 show for four straight seasons in the '70s.

3. Shorter seasons and today's highly competitive schedules can short-circuit those connections.

Cheers and All in the Family would likely never get a second chance today. The shorter window of opportunity is a big challenge in Canada where a 13 episode order is the norm compared to the U.S. standard of 22. It's hard to steer audiences back to a show such as Seed if there hasn't been a new episode for 40 weeks.

4. Canadian networks do not spend anything close to what their U.S. counterparts do on promotion.

John Landgraf, president of FX, suggests that, to cut through today's clutter, you have to spend the equivalent of half of what it costs to produce a series on promotion.

In other words, a \$20 million series requires another \$10 million in promotion. Landgraf spends to remind audiences that Louie — off the air a year-and-a-half as comedian Louis C.K. recharges — will be back this May. Canadian networks, generally, rely on their own in-house marketing and extended media reach to get the word out.

5. There are no sure things in television.

Even a beloved star such as Michael J. Fox failed in his bid for a sitcom comeback this season.

His own personal triumph over Parkinson's was even part of the storyline, yet viewers just

Quoted

"One weekend over Thanksgiving the first year we were the 75th (ranked) show on the air and there were 75 shows."

Jim Burrows, on Cheers' early days

didn't come to The Michael J. Fox Show.

6. Canada does sketch, not sitcoms.

Seeing the great sketch comedy masters from Kids and SCTV return to Canada to appear in sitcoms seems a bit off-side.

are trying to do.

9. Being tucked behind a U.S. hit is both a blessing and a curse.

CTV's use of Big Bang to boost Spun Out makes sense.

Expectations, however, are raised and comparisons can be

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Weren't these the guys who used to mock sitcoms? Who can forget Tibor's Tractor?

7. Critics are sitcom averse. Many reviewers see so many not-so-good traditional four-camera comedies they can't eject screeners fast enough.

Reviewers eventually only respond to something they see as different — which isn't always what general audiences are looking for.

Hence all those glowing reviews for critic's darlings such as Arrested Development, Community or even CBC's short-lived Michael: Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Critics love all that quirky originality, but after a while it all sounds like "eat your vegetables" to viewers who would rather just unwind in front of Two and a Half Men.

8. The worst thing a Canadian comedy can do is look like it is trying to be an American comedy.

With the cost of producing television today, however, that is exactly what these new shows



From left, actors Simon Helberg and Jim Parsons in a scene from The Big Bang Theory. The phenomenal success of the show, which has been the top-rated series in Canada for several years, has sparked a revival of the sitcom format. MICHAEL VARISH/CBS



Dave Foley, second from left, with cast members of Spun Out, his new CTV comedy. CTV



Andrea Martin, right, in her new TV comedy Working the Engels, with former SCTV cast mate Eugene Levy. SHAW MEDIA

After 18 years, chick lit is all grown up

Girl problems. Genre veteran Jane Green says she writes women the way she sees them in her own life

EMILY
LAURENCE
Metro World News

Back in 1997 when Jane Green released her first novel, *Straight Talking*, there was no such thing as chick lit. Green, along with a few other authors at the time, became the founding writers of what went on to become a billion dollar genre.

"Helen Fielding wrote *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Straight Talking* came out three or four months later and there were a couple other books in England that came out around the same time," Green tells us.

"A newspaper ran a double-spread article about us and said we had created this new genre, chick

lit. And that's really how it started."

Green has made a career writing commercial women's fiction and is releasing her 15th book, *Tempting Fate*, on March 25. According to her, writing for women now is very different than it was 18 years ago.

"When I first started writing, (chick lit) was aspirational. You had these huge sexy, glitzy sagas about women who conquered the world. They weren't very real, but they were huge fun. I think what we did was introduce a genre that really held a mirror to women and held it with great honesty and humor," she says. "I don't think there was a genre of books where women were able to read and say, 'I've been there. That's exactly what my life is like.'"

Her new novel is about infidelity and full of so many "What ifs?" and "Then whats?" that it makes it impossible not to devour the book in just a few sittings.



As Green has gotten older, so have her characters. The principal character in *Tempting Fate* isn't a 20- or 30-something trying to figure out her relationship status; it's a woman in her 40s on the brink of a midlife crisis.

"My days of writing about women in their 20s and 30s are over," Green says.

"I've always drawn on my own life. ... All the sudden in my 40s, I noticed a number of women who announced



Author Jane Green. IAN WARBURG

they'd been unhappy for years and unbearably it turned out these women were having affairs. I start-

ed to really look at female infidelity and in particular what happens to a woman in her 40s. Why am I seeing so

Quoted

"I started to really look at female infidelity and in particular what happens to a woman in her 40s."

Jane Greene, author, on what inspires her writing now

many women being unfaithful? What is going on?"

Green is contractually obligated to release two books a year, so even though she is just now celebrating the release of *Tempting Fate*, her 16th book is already done and she's currently at work on the 17th.

"My next book is called *Saving Grace* and is about an older man married to a younger woman. They take on an assistant who seems perfect in every way, but within a short period of time, she starts systematically destroying their lives," she reveals. Sounds just about right.

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Video game review

Name. South Park: The Stick Of Truth

For. PS3/Xbox 360/PC

Rated. Mature 17+



It's hard to keep the jokes going for two hours, let alone twenty, but this mature-comedy adventure had me roaring from start to finish. Exceptional writing makes this epic role-playing game feel like a South Park movie, capturing the way kids re-enact their stories only to use that to break every adult taboo. Yes, there's fart-based magic and underpants gnomes, but shockingly explicit material involving Nazi recordings and abortions too. The gameplay is an admirable mix of exploring and mini-games, the best being an 8-bit adventure to Canada. **KRIS ABEL**



3 songs for the weekend



SOUND CHECK

Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Courtney Barnett, an '80s revival and a tribute that is pretty, pretty, pretty good

Avant Gardener/
Courtney Barnett

My hands-down favourite new tune of the month. Beyond the deadpan delivery are lyrics that are surreal, inventive and witty. It's only later you realize she's singing about having an anaphylactic panic attack. Brilliant, really.

How Deep is the Hole/ACTORS

Cold wave (with a touch of New Romanticism) from Vancouver that takes you back to 1984. Pairs well with Interpol, Editors and old-school Depeche Mode.



The Seinfeld Reunion/Larry David

You've probably been hoping for a bunch of grindcore/death guys to form a band just so they could record an album based entirely on Curb Your Enthusiasm's Larry David. Well, your prayers have been answered. Definitely NSFW. Or anything else.

Canada's A-list

Arcade Fire, Sarah McLachlan added as Juno performers

Arcade Fire, OneRepublic and Sarah McLachlan have been added to the list of performers at the upcoming Juno Awards.

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which runs the televised music bash, says OneRepublic will perform their latest single, Counting Stars, while McLachlan will debut the song Beautiful Girl from her upcoming album, Shine On.

Arcade Fire, however, will appear via a taped performance due to touring commitments. The Montreal-based band — scheduled to be in Chile that same weekend — is up for a leading six nominations, including album of the year.

The Juno Awards, co-hosted by Classified, Johnny Reid and Serena Ryder, take place March 30 in Winnipeg and air on CTV. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Game Developers Choice Awards. The Last of Us picks up game of the year

The Last of Us, a gripping post-apocalyptic survival saga created by developer Naughty Dog for the PlayStation 3, has picked up the game of the year trophy at the 14th annual Game Developers Choice Awards ceremony in San Francisco. The Last of Us also won the awards for best design and narrative.

"I can't stress (enough) what a collaboration it is to put something like this together," said creative director Neil Druckmann, who was joined on stage at the Moscone Center by dozens of Last of Us developers.

Irrational Games' slick sky-high shooter BioShock Infinite nabbed the awards for best audio and visual art, while Lucas Pope's quirky 8-bit immigration agent simulator Papers, Please captured both the innovation award and best downloadable game trophy.

"If the criteria is fastest to download, Papers, Please is 40 megabytes zipped," joked Pope. "It's a little un-



A scene from the video game The Last of Us. NAUGHTY DOG/SONY COMPUTER
ENTERTAINMENT AMERICA

fair, but I'll take it."

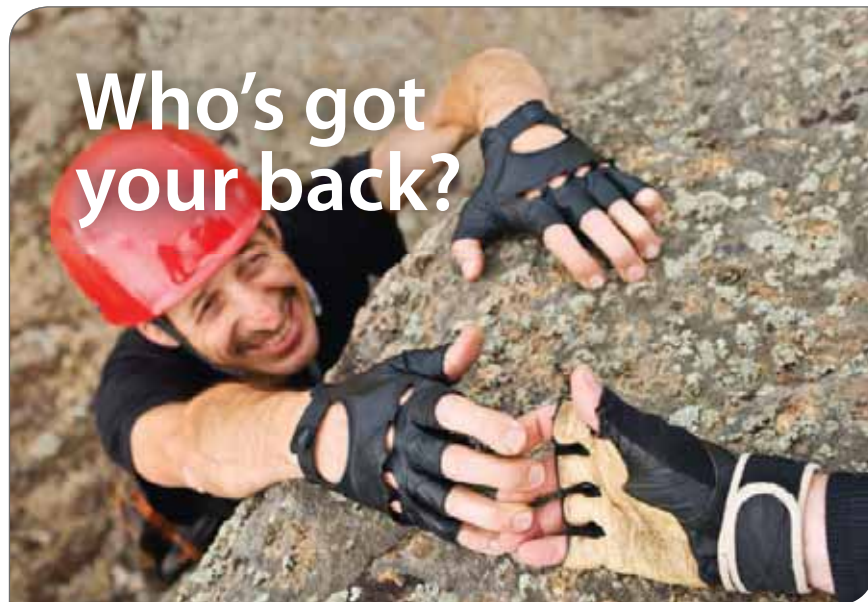
Selected by a jury of more than 2,200 game creators, the Game Developers Choice Awards honour the best games of the past year during the Game Developers Conference, an annual gathering of game creators.

Other winners included Rockstar Games' heist romp Grand Theft Auto V for best technology, Nintendo's

shape-shifting adventure The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds for best handheld game and The Fullbright Company's coming-of-age story Gone Home for best debut. Squad's wacky space flight simulator Kerbal Space Program landed the audience award, which was selected by online votes.

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Doll & Em. Real-life besties play versions of themselves in this six episode series about show business

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

In the HBO comedy *Doll & Em*, Dolly Wells becomes the personal assistant of her life-long bestie, the actress Emily Mortimer. Over six episodes, Mortimer and Wells, who has so far largely worked in British comedy (including being one of Bridget Jones' buds), explore a friendship as a crack runs slowly through it. In real life, only the bestie part (and Mortimer's Hollywood stardom) is true.

"We have a shorthand where we can understand each other," Wells explains.

"We find things funnier sooner than somebody watching us. We fill silences with words," says Mortimer. "We needed someone else in our lives."

That person became Azazel Jacobs, the filmmaker of oddly rhythmic comedies like *Momma's Man* and *Terri*. (He's also the son of avant-garde titan Ken Jacobs.) "I think if there's anything I brought to the process, it was being someone who's outside a relationship that's so incredibly tight," Jacobs says. "They have their own language. They don't have to say many words for the other person to understand them. I felt like

BFFs

"Without sounding sloppy, it became our love letter to our friendship and female friendship."

Dolly Wells, star of *Doll & Em*

a conduit. I could sense what the audience would feel like (watching them)."

Mortimer and Wells had long wanted to work together. They thought it would be funny if Wells played her assistant, and modelled the overall arc — in which Wells starts getting more attention than Mortimer — on *All About Eve* and the Harold Pinter-scripted psychological thriller *The Servant* (albeit told with two giggly, sweet-natured people deathly afraid

of confrontation). They weren't sure if it should be a movie or a play or what.

They brought in Jacobs, who they'd known since his days studying at the American Film Institute. He suggested making it into a self-contained TV show, not too unlike the Steve Coogan-Rob Brydon show (and then whittled-down film) *The Trip*. They shot a test pilot while Mortimer was filming *The Newsroom*. The test became the first 20-minute episode.

Jacobs wrote the scripts with Mortimer and Wells. "It always came down to seeing if we could say this or that clearer," he says. "If there was a fight it was always towards the same goal: to be as clear and truthful as possible."

"It became what we then decided what we wanted it to be, which was a movie with all the aesthetic qualities of a filmmaker's movie, made over six episodes," Mortimer says. "It has the production values and



Dolly Wells and Emily Mortimer star in *Doll & Em*. CONTRIBUTED

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the sensibility of a movie. But it just happens to be on television."

The fact that it's about showbiz came about not because they had a burning desire to add to the deep genre devoted to it.

"We tried other things before, but they weren't things we knew very well particularly. We'd get bogged down in trying to imagine another world," says Wells. "Whereas the idea of being actors we both really knew about. There was something about me being an assistant that really resonated with us, because it seemed so funny and sad at the same time. That's our humour. There's a darkness to it."

"It was an experiment that ended up being the show," Mortimer says. "We got locked into quite a lot of things by necessity. We were just using what we had — the set I was on, the trailer I was in."

Even the fact that their characters have the same name — and same general relationship, at least initially — was part of that. "We were calling each other by our real names, thinking it wouldn't be seen by anyone but us," recalls Mortimer. "We were too lazy to come up with others."

Their fate was sealed when Jacobs labelled the file of the test episode "*Doll & Em*," which still makes them queasy. "We've had moments of hating it," she says.

Somehow, she just didn't ever see it coming

Most people pride themselves on knowing when someone is lying. When we hear about former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's outrageous illicit affairs or Bernie Madoff's massive Ponzi scheme, we look at their wives and think, "She must have known, right? How could she not have?" This "should have known" belief is the idea behind Jean Hanff Korelitz's latest novel.

The book's protagonist is

Grace, a therapist living the life she's always wanted.

Married to a sympathetic pediatric oncologist, she has just written a highly anticipated self-help book cautioning women to hear what men are telling them at the very beginning of a relationship. But when Grace's husband goes missing and she finds herself in the middle of a media frenzy, she's left wondering how she could have missed her own advice.

According to Korelitz, you'd be surprised how many smart women have their own "should have known" moment.

"The British publisher asked everyone who worked at the publishing company to submit their 'should have known' moments and I got to pick the winner," she says. "These women are very, very smart. They're working for this great publisher, yet they all seem to have some

story where you wanted to look at them and think, 'Really? Really?'"

The winner of the aforementioned contest was a woman who went on a first date with a guy who told her that he saw sexuality as free-flowing and not something you can put in a box.

"She dated him for years and, of course, he turned out to be gay," Korelitz muses.

**EMILY LAURENCE/
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK**

Quoted

"Every single one of my novels starts with a woman who seems to have her s— together but is destroyed by the middle or end of the book."

Jean Hanff Korelitz, author



Schoolboy Q basks in glow of first No. 1 album

No longer the hypeman. Kendrick Lamar's label-mate scores latest hit for Top Dawg Entertainment

It's Schoolboy Q's turn. The Los Angeles rapper took the hand-off from Top Dawg Entertainment label-mate Kendrick Lamar and scored a touchdown when his new album *Oxymoron* opened at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, selling 139,000 copies in the week ending March 2. It's the second straight strong showing for TDE and Q, who sees it as the start of a championship team.

"Somebody has to step up besides Kevin Durant," said Q, who made the rounds at South by Southwest last week. "Somebody has to step up beside Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant. They can't do it by themselves. Football is the best example, you can't win by yourself. A good quarterback can't win a champion-

ship. The linebacker can't win you a championship. The coach can't win you a championship. It has to be everybody."

Q held up his part of the deal, delivering a critically praised major label debut that compares favourably to Lamar's Grammy Award-nominated breakthrough good kid, m.A.A.d. city in its grittiness and authenticity. Given the opportunity in front of him, the rapper could have aimed for pop radio success, but instead made an LP that reflects his life as a father and former gang member.

The 27-year-old began his TDE run as Lamar's hype man and calls King Kendrick his brother, giving him the credit for his moment.

"That's how it goes in any successful label — you have to roll off somebody," Q said.

Terrence "Punch" Henderson, one of TDE's two founders, said the back-to-back successes — good kid, m.A.A.d. city debuted at No. 2 upon its release in Novem-



Schoolboy Q performs during this year's SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas. JACK PLUNKETT/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ber 2012 — show where the label is headed.

"The first time with Kendrick wasn't a fluke," Henderson said. "Q came out, got a No. 1 album, but the album's actually great. It's a great record and that's what

we aim towards, to put out great music."

Henderson reaffirmed plans to release a new album from every label member this year — SZA is up next on April 8.

That list includes Lamar,

who he says has recorded 12 new songs but may throw them out and start anew.

Interest is high. Lamar was one of the top nominees at the 2014 Grammy Awards, but was shut out in what turned out to be a hip-hop

Quoted

"It's just up to you to take advantage of the opportunity because there's plenty of rappers that have friends."

Schoolboy Q on working with Kendrick Lamar

landslide victory for Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. Though Lamar didn't win, he teamed with Imagine Dragons for one of the night's most powerful performances and attained a new level of popularity.

"The performance was crazy, probably the best performance of the night," Henderson said. "I'm not just saying that because that's my artist either. After all that controversy behind him not winning, that's keeping him in all the conversations. It keeps us as an underdog. There's no ceiling. If you win, where do you go after that? So it gives us something to work towards still."

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Johnny Weir ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Weir through: Skating star announces marriage has frozen over

Figure skating star Johnny Weir has split from his husband of two years, Victor Voronov. "It is with great sadness that I announce that my husband and I are no longer together," Weir wrote on Twitter. "My heart hurts, and I wish him well."

Skating star Weir, who, along with partner Tara Lipinski, made a big splash at the 2014 Winter Olympics with their snappy commentary and even snappier outfits, has been married to Voronov, a Georgetown law grad, for two years. The Weir-Voronovs were

in court on March 4 for a domestic violence incident, during which Weir allegedly bit Voronov, according to Page Six. Just last month, Weir spoke to Access Hollywood about his relationship and mentioned the stresses of married life.

"A marriage between two guys is different than what I imagine a marriage between a man and a woman (to be)," he said. "I mean, we're both constantly trying to fight to wear the pants in the relationship."

"It's constant fireworks," Johnny added. "It's very boom, boom, boom."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Just call her Debbie Downer Diaz

MELINDA
TAUB

Metro World News

"Everybody has been cheated on, everyone will be cheated on. I can't fix that, I don't know how." Cameron Diaz tells the British edition of OK! Magazine. (Editor's note: Please don't confuse The Diaz by telling her it is possible to buy your child a plane ticket.) "We are tribal, we need our tribe," she says. "I have a bunch of little tribes all over the world that I pop to for a little bit of time, and then I move on. And that's the great thing about being mobile. A lot of my friends have kids and they are stuck, planted in one place, and I kind of get to pop into all the different little tribes around the world and hang out for a little bit."

on someone.) Diaz is also fine without having kids, because that means she can travel. (Editor's note: Please don't confuse The Diaz by telling her it is possible to buy your child a plane ticket.) "We are tribal, we need our tribe," she says. "I have a bunch of little tribes all over the world that I pop to for a little bit of time, and then I move on. And that's the great thing about being mobile. A lot of my friends have kids and they are stuck, planted in one place, and I kind of get to pop into all the different little tribes around the world and hang out for a little bit."



Lindsay Lohan

Did Lindsay give her sober living coach the heave-Lo?

Lindsay Lohan's vows to lead a cleaner life post-rehab are coming into question since she reportedly fired her sober living coach, Michael Cormier, once filming had been completed on her Oprah Winfrey-produced reality show, according to Radar Online. "Lindsay immediately hired Michael to be her sober living coach and companion. He moved from Los Angeles to New

York City to be with her 24-7," a source says. "But as soon as the cameras were packed up, Lindsay gave Michael the pink slip, and he hasn't heard from her since." The cost of such a service might have been a factor for the often cash-strapped starlet: "This wasn't cheap for Lindsay, as Michael charges up to \$1,500 a day," the source explains.

Twitter



@KChenoweth

Dear mini bar people, why are all little packages of food wrapped in government plastic which make it impossible for me to get into



@TomArnold

Those people that think it would be fun to do a movie with a bunch of f-ing dogs deserve to do a movie with a bunch of f-ing dogs.



@MichaelChiklis

When in doubt, do nothing...the correct course will become clear

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Liquid Assets

Playing wine favourites



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Wine writers make the worst customers. Short of trying the new vintage of a familiar brand, our quest to taste everything makes buying a wine more than once unlikely.

That doesn't mean that you shouldn't play favourites. In fact, I recommend that everyone should have at least 10

go-to wines that have proven themselves consistent, versatile and fun to drink (whether with a particular dish or on their own).

Having a Top 10 means you're always ready with a bottle you know will deliver — especially when you're invited to the boss's house for

dinner or want to show off your wine savvy to friends.

A reliable Chianti needs to be on your list. Made primarily from the sangiovese grape, it's the quintessential Tuscan red.

The 2009 Ruffino Riserva Ducale (\$24.95 - \$34.99) comes from Chianti's Classico area — the oldest part of the region.

Packed with chewy blackberry and cherry fruit, its flavour flow is massaged by bright acidity and dry, grippy tannins. Try it with rustic Italian dishes like osso buco, meaty lasagna and, of course, pizza.

PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Even though it may not feel like it in certain parts of the country, spring has sprung. Bestselling Australian chef Donna Hay helps us celebrate with a recipe that's both refreshing and light from her cookbook *Fast, Fresh, Simple*.



Dessert

Cheat's Raspberry Brûlée

- 300 g frozen raspberries
- 1/3 cup (75 g) caster (superfine) sugar
- 1 1/2 cups (420 g) Greek-style thick natural yogurt
- 1 cup (250 ml) double (heavy) cream
- 2 tbsp caster (superfine) sugar, extra
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Extra caster (superfine) sugar, for sprinkling

Place raspberries and sugar in a saucepan over high heat and simmer for 20 minutes or until the raspberry mixture thickens.

Spoon the raspberry mixture into 4 x 1-cup capacity (250 ml) oven-proof dishes. Refrigerate until cold.

Whisk together the yogurt, cream, sugar and vanilla until thick and spoon over the raspberry mixture. Refrigerate until cold.

Sprinkle with sugar and caramelize sugar with a kitchen blow torch until golden.

DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM



The recipe serves four. DONNA HAY

Greet spring with Cheat's Goat's Cheese Soufflé



This Cheat's Goat's Cheese Soufflé with Roasted Beetroot Salad serves four.

DONNA HAY



FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE
Donna Hay
gustotv.com

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. To make the roasted beetroot salad, trim, wash and scrub the beetroot, reserving the smaller leaves. Discard the stems. Place the beetroot and rosemary on a baking tray and sprinkle with oil and salt. Roast for 40 minutes or until tender. Set aside.

3. To make the soufflé, place the cheese, cream, salt and egg yolks in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat until light and fluffy. Fold through the breadcrumbs.

4. Place the egg whites in a clean bowl and beat until soft peaks form. Fold the whites into the cheese mixture.

5. Spoon into 4 x 1 1/2-cup capacity (375 ml) lightly greased ramekins and bake for 20–25

minutes or until puffed and golden. To serve, halve the larger beetroot and toss with the leaves. Whisk together the vinegar, oil, salt and pepper and spoon over the salad. Serve with the soufflé. **WATCH DONNA HAY FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE THURSDAYS STARTING AT 10 P.M. EST/PT ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.**

Ingredients

- 150 g soft goat's cheese
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) single (pouring) cream
- sea salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 cups (140 g) fresh white breadcrumbs

Roasted Beetroot Salad

- 600 g baby red and golden beetroot (beets)
- 6 rosemary sprigs
- olive oil and sea salt, for sprinkling
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- sea salt and cracked black pepper

Spinach and Feta Pies

1. Preheat oven to 180 C (350 F). Brush phyllo sheets with but-

Ingredients

- 6 sheets phyllo pastry
- 40 g butter, melted
- 250 g frozen spinach, thawed
- 500 g ricotta
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup (25g) finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped mint leaves
- sea salt/cracked black pepper
- 75 g feta, roughly chopped

ter and place one on top of the other. Cut stack of pastry sheets in half so you have 2 rectangles and place on baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper.

2. Squeeze excess liquid from spinach and place in bowl with ricotta, eggs, Parmesan, mint, salt and pepper and mix to combine. Divide filling between two pastries leaving 5 cm border. Fold over pastry edges to form border.

3. Sprinkle filling with feta. Bake for 35 minutes or until



This recipe serves two. DONNA HAY

pastry is golden and filling has set. **DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM**

3 HOURS



Canadian skip Rachel Homan, right, and second Alison Kreviazuk tap fists as they play China at the Ford World Women's Curling Championship in Saint John, N.B., on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homan and company secure playoff spot

Age is just a number.

The young Canadian squad beat out another young team from China, 6-4

Rachel Homan's curling team struck a balance between patience and aggression to make the playoffs at the Ford Women's World Curling Championship.

The average age of Homan, third Emma Miskew,

Quoted

"This team may be young, but we've had so much experience." Lisa Weagle, Canadian curling team

second Alison Kreviazuk and lead Lisa Weagle is just shy of 26, but they're a Canadian women's curling team ahead of the curve when it comes to the big-game experience and the lessons learned in those games.

A 6-4 win over another young, tough team from China on Thursday at Harbour Station

in Saint John, N.B., secured a playoff berth for the host country.

Canada finished first in the preliminary round at 10-1 with a 9-6 win over Sweden in the evening.

The Canadians already knew with the victory of Liu Sijia, however, that they'd have a chance to upgrade

the bronze medal they won in their world championship debut a year ago.

Homan, Miskew and Kreviazuk have been teammates for over a decade.

Since graduating from the junior ranks four years ago, they and Weagle have played in three national women's championships — finishing fourth and winning twice — two world championships and an Olympic trials.

"This team may be young, but we've had so much experience," said Weagle, the oldest at 28. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Hockey

Dineen to tackle under-18 job

Kevin Dineen led Canada's women to a gold medal at the Sochi Olympics, and his next task will be coaching the men's under-18 team at April's world championships in Finland.

"I think any time you get to represent Canada in international competition it's a real honour," Dineen said in a phone interview Thursday night. "Obviously with our success in Sochi, it was a great time for me to sit back and enjoy that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Tigers struck down and out vs. Nats

Stephen Strasburg allowed three hits and struck out five in five scoreless innings Thursday, helping the Washington Nationals beat the Detroit Tigers 8-1.

Strasburg has given up one earned run and eight hits in 14 innings with 10 strikeouts and four walks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spring training

Bautista's bat still blazing vs. Phillies

Jose Bautista extended his torrid spring training with a double and Esmil Rogers gave up just one run in five innings Thursday as the Blue Jays beat a Philadelphia Phillies split squad 3-1.

Bautista went 1-for-3, and is hitting .359 with five homers, four doubles and 11 RBIs. Erik Kratz homered twice and was 3-for-3, and Moises Sierra also connected for Toronto.

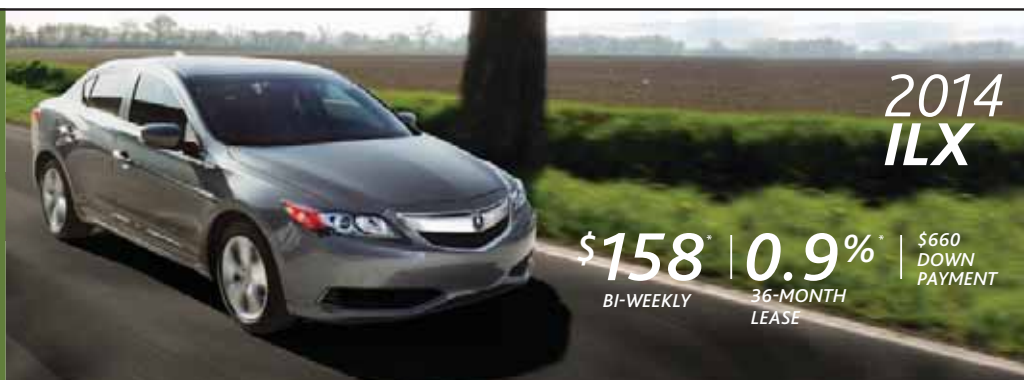
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Ennis bred on competition in Ontario home

March Madness.

Highly touted point guard's sporty family prepared him for success with Syracuse

The mini basketball nets that hang all over Tyler Ennis's home in Brampton, Ont., have taken a beating over the years.

In a family of six athletic kids, everything becomes a competition.

The 19-year-old Ennis led the Syracuse Orange to a 77-53 victory over Western Michigan in their opening game of March Madness on Thursday, running the offence with a quiet confidence developed over years of playing alongside two older brothers.

"Very competitive," dad Tony McIntyre said of his kids. "Those Fisher Price nets, and the ones you hang on the door, they'd break those off. Then you'd hammer them into the ceiling in the basement. They'd break those."

"It would get heated. You'd have to break up fights. Out on the street when they'd play 2-on-2 or 1-on-1, someone would always end up upset and kicking the ball down the street."

Ennis, who led Syracuse to a No. 3 seed and the school's 37th berth in the NCAA tournament, scored 16 points and doled out six assists in Thurs-



Brampton, Ont.'s Tyler Ennis led Syracuse to a 77-53 win over Western Michigan on Thursday in the March Madness tournament.

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

day's resounding victory in Buffalo.

"We had great energy and that's a key for us going forward," Ennis said. "We've got to play intense and play a full 40 minutes, and everybody was kind of locked in for that."

Ennis's 22-year-old brother Dylan — a sophomore guard at Villanova — was scheduled to play later Thursday in Buffalo when the Wildcats took on Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Tyler Ennis, one of a crop of rising Canadian stars playing in March Madness, led the Orange to a 25-0 start to this

season and the No. 1 ranking in the NCAA for three consecutive weeks, before the Orange lost five of seven games down the regular-season stretch.

Ennis is a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award as the best point guard in the country, and is one of 15 finalists for the Wooden Award for the NCAA's top player, a list that includes Kansas swingman Andrew Wiggins of Vaughan and Michigan sharpshooter Nik Stauskas of Mississauga.

Ennis averaged 12.7 points, 5.6 assists and 2.1 steals per game, becoming the only freshman to ever lead the ACC in assists and steals.

Ennis wasn't the only Canadian to figure prominently on a day that began with the playing of both the U.S. and Canadian anthems (a few puzzled journalists grumbled openly about the latter).

Dyshawn Pierre of Whitby, Ont., scored 12 points and grabbed a game-high eight rebounds to lift Dayton to a 60-59 win, setting up a third-round meeting between Ennis and Pierre, former club teammates.

"I think a lot of people recognize how much we have contributed to our teams ... 25 guys in the tournament, that's a big step for us going forward, to not only play on Division 1 teams, but also to contribute," Ennis said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jermaine Sanders of Cincinnati and Harvard's Kyle Casey battle for a loose ball in Spokane, Wash. Harvard, a 12th seed, won its second-ever NCAA tournament game, upsetting Cincinnati 61-57. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

David vs. Goliath

E. Kentucky looks for upset over Kansas

About the only thing Kansas and Eastern Kentucky have in common is that they are playing each other in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The Jayhawks are the big, bruising bullies touting a roster stocked with five-star freshmen including Andrew Wiggins. The Colonels are the scrappy underdogs whose senior-laden roster is adept in shooting three-pointers.

The No. 2 seed Jayhawks and 15th-seeded Colonels meet Friday in St. Louis, with the winner getting seventh-seeded New Mexico or 10th-seeded Stanford in the third round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Coach Tom Izzo and Michigan State (4) had an easy go of it against Delaware, winning 93-78. STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES



Patric Young and Florida (1) slammed Albany out of the tournament with a 67-55 win. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES



Dayton, an 11th seed, celebrates after upsetting Ohio State 60-59. Vee Sanford scored the winning basket with 3.8 seconds remaining. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Don't waste time on regrets. This is your time of year and if you are positive you will enjoy the kind of progress that makes yesterday's doubts and failures irrelevant.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may have to remind someone that you do not exist merely to be there when they call. Today's lunar eclipse of Saturn in your opposite sign will help you express negative feelings in a positive way.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Try not to let your annoyance show if a friend gets something wrong. Resist the urge to criticize and instead offer words of advice in a supportive way. Chances are they'll get it right next time.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The most important thing today is that you make sure the facts support your point of view. If you make claims that others find easy to show are false, it won't do your reputation a lot of good.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Anything you do in haste over the next 24 hours will be repented for days if not weeks to come. Slow down, take your time and make sure you have made the correct decisions before you take any action.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

It's easy to find fault with others, but is your own life blameless? If you get critical today you may find someone turns the tables by highlighting your own failures.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The planets warn if you shoot your mouth off today you may provoke someone who knows how to hit back. And they will hit you where it hurts most — in your wallet.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Today's lunar eclipse of Saturn in your sign suggests you are bursting to say things you know you shouldn't. However, the longer you keep your thoughts bottled up, the bigger the explosion will be.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Refuse to do anything you consider underhand or unfair. Others may enjoy cutting corners but you know that in the long-term, negative behaviour has a way of coming back at you.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Say what you believe to be true and don't worry too much about the effect it may have on others. Facts are facts and must not be denied, not even to spare the feelings of those who are not as smart as you.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You want to make a difference in a good way, but how do you actually do that? What happens over the next 24 hours will point you in the right direction. Start marching!

Pisces

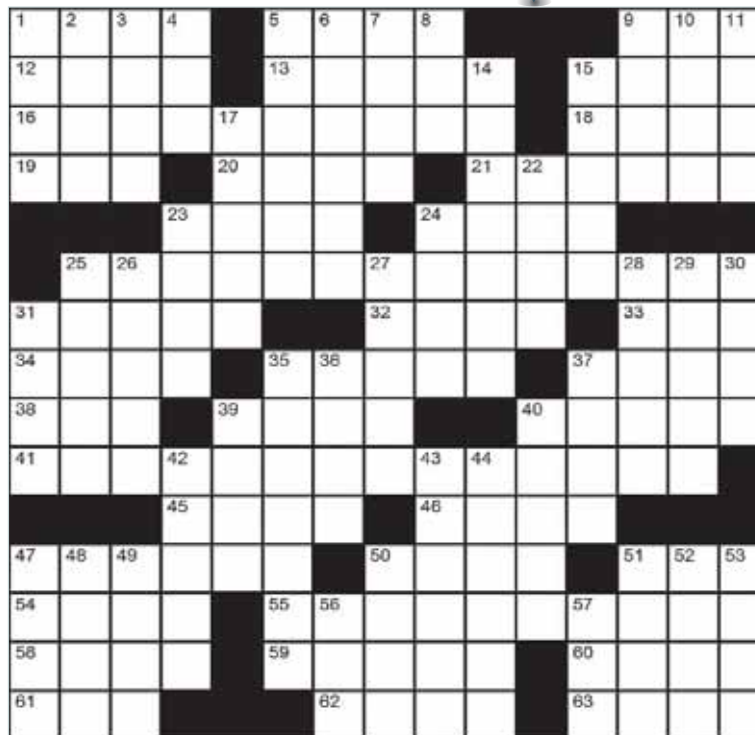
Feb. 20 - March 20

A question that's been nagging at your brain for a long time will finally be answered today. It may surprise you how simple the solution is but isn't that often the way? Next time, try not to make such a big deal of it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. ___ Mall (Famous street in London, England)
5. Dines, informally
9. You-know-___
12. Nautical side
13. "The Love Boat" bartender
15. Gardening product
16. 1942 Bogart/Bergman movie
18. Seepage sort
19. Cousin of -ette
20. Time delays
21. Author of the best-seller at #47-Across, Joseph ___
23. Hourly pay
24. Macbeth's burial place
25. Sports rivalry in AB: 3 wds.
31. Correspond
32. Acad.
33. Narcotics agcy. in The States
34. Shania Twain's "I ___ No Quitter"
35. 'Health' in Hull
37. Titles in Turkey
38. Chew out
39. Mr. Jacobs of fashion
40. Guitarist who wears a top hat
41. Manitoba's Wekusko Falls, for one: 2 wds.
45. Driveway sights
46. Pere's partner
47. The ___ (Winner of CBC's 2014 Canada



Reads battle-of-the-books)

50. Roof part
51. Actor Mr. McBride
54. Horse coat
55. Character in "Muppets Most Wanted" (2014): 2 wds.
58. Mystique
59. Zac of showbiz

60. Laze
61. "Dancing with the Stars" judge Mr. Goodman
62. Temple, poetry-style
63. Catches on

Down

1. Tempo

2. "Ah, me."
3. More-not
4. Singer/actress Ms. Michele
5. Farm fodder
6. Accepted practices
7. Pots and ___
8. Bag-like structure
9. Carpentry material
10. Smog

11. Foretold
14. Freight train's last car
15. True blue
17. Finger point
22. "Don't bet ___!": 2 wds.
23. 60-___ bulb
24. "___ it about time?"
25. ___ Tuck

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

26. Vernacular
27. "The Da ___ Code" (2006)
28. 'E' in poetic monogram EAP
29. Inquire once more
30. Certain cincture
31. Sci-Fi speed
35. New Mexico's capital: 2 wds.
36. Curves
37. Wings
39. Intellect
40. Shopper's binge
42. "Wheel of Fortune" letters-turner
43. Popular online 'bookstore'
44. Maroon 5 singer Adam
47. ___ agreement
48. Libertine
49. Clear
50. Better Than ___ (Rock band)
51. Hand over
52. "Stop!"
53. Furies
56. Sour
57. Large

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: -10°
MIN: -15°

SATURDAY



MAX: -8°
MIN: -16°

SUNDAY



MAX: -4°
MIN: -19°



MICHELE MCDUGALL WEATHER SPECIALIST

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[^]\$500 *F SPORT* bonus available to qualified retail customers on the purchase/lease of new Lexus 2014 IS *F SPORT* (F,G,H suffix only)/2014 CT 200h *F SPORT* (F suffix only) and will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. \$1,000 *F SPORT* bonus available on the purchase/lease of new Lexus 2014 IS C *F SPORT* (F suffix only)/2014 GS *F SPORT* (F suffix only)/2014 RX *F SPORT* and will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. \$3,000 *F SPORT* bonus available on the purchase/lease of new Lexus 2014 LS *F SPORT* (F suffix only) and will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your dealer for complete details. *Lease offers provided through Lexus Financial Services, on approved credit. *Representative lease example based on a 2014 IS 250 AWD sfx 'F' on a 48 month term at an annual rate of 2.9% and MSRP of \$46,002. Monthly payment is \$488 with \$5,000 down payment or equivalent trade in, \$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$28,443. 80,000 kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.20/km for excess kilometres. MSRP includes freight/PDI (\$1995), dealer fees, block heater (\$230), air conditioning tax (\$100), tire tax (\$20) and AMVIC fee (\$6). Taxes, license, registration (if applicable) and insurance are extra. Lexus dealers are free to set their own prices. Limited time offers only apply to retail customers at participating Lexus dealers. Dealer order/trade may be required. Offers are subject to change without notice. Offers expire at month's end unless extended or revised. See your Lexus dealer for complete details.



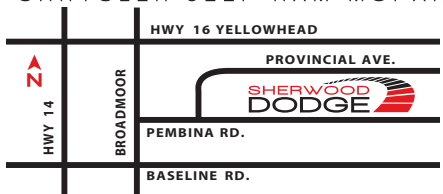
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<p>Alan Wack</p>	<p>2010 KIA FORTE KOUP EX #4JN4383A</p> <p>ONLY 15000 KMS</p> <p>\$15,860</p>	<p>2010 HONDA RIDGELINE EX-L #4R10302A</p> <p>\$27,860</p>	<p>2012 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 CREW SLT #4R18215A</p> <p>\$25,860</p>	<p>2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA LTD #4CK0892A</p> <p>\$12,860</p>	<p>2012 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO #P3376</p> <p>\$28,860</p>	<p>2012 VW GOLF #3FT6414A</p> <p>HIGHLINE \$16,860</p>	<p>Matt Lakusta</p>
<p>Mike Redmond</p>	<p>2013 FIAT 500 LOUNGE #4JN9689A</p> <p>LOADED-7000KMS</p> <p>\$17,860</p>	<p>2011 TOYOTA COROLLA CE #3R32931A</p> <p>\$12,860</p>	<p>2009 ACURA TSX PREMIUM #4GH2068A</p> <p>\$20,860</p>	<p>2010 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO #4R14006A</p> <p>\$19,860</p>	<p>2013 RAM 1500 REG CAB #3R19277C</p> <p>ONLY 4400KMS</p> <p>\$22,860</p>	<p>2013 DODGE RAM Q/C 4X4 #4R13264A</p> <p>\$26,860</p>	<p>Gaby Hallal</p>
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<p>Mark Reimann</p>	<p>CHECK OUT OUR FRESH TRADE INS AT WWW.SHERWOODDODGE.CA</p>						<p>Dale Buchner</p>
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<p>Jesse Halladay</p>	<p>2012 DODGE RAM 3500 LARAMIE CREW 4X4 #4R31903A</p>	<p>2013 DODGE RAM 1500 LONGHORN CREW #3R26165A</p>	<p>2010 DODGE RAM 3500 LARAMIE MEGA CAB #4R10066A</p>	<p>2013 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA UNLIMITED #4R15416A</p>	<p>2007 DODGE RAM 1500 Q/C 4X4 #4R14640B</p>	<p>2012 DODGE RAM 1500 OUTDOORSMAN CREW 4X4 #P3398</p>	<p>Sergiy Maslovsky</p>
<p>Brad McDonald</p>	<p>2008 DODGE CALIBER SXT #4JN1262A</p>	<p>2012 FORD ESCAPE XLT #EN3365A</p>					<p>Todd Hines</p>



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Monday-Thursday 9am – 8pm;
Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-6pm;
Sun. 11am-4pm

Price shown plus GST. Vehicles may not be exactly as illustrated. See dealer for details.